

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune donates \$2,000 to 5 non-profits. **PAGE 2**

Muña: Millions of medical referral promissory notes were forgiven. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## Palacios-Apatang installed today

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

All roads this morning lead to Susupe for the inauguration of Arnold I. Palacios as governor and David M. Apatang as lieutenant governor, and to Capital Hill for the inauguration of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

Palacios, 67, will be the 10<sup>th</sup> governor of the CNMI, while Apatang, 74, will be the 13<sup>th</sup> lieutenant governor, when they are sworn in at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe at 10am.

» **29 members of 23rd Legislature will also take oath of office**

See **PALACIOS** on **Page 4**

### Torres bids farewell to politics



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After 15 years spent in politics, including seven as the ninth governor of the CNMI, Ralph DLG Torres looks forward

» **After 15 years of government service, Torres wants to enjoy private life by fishing, camping with family, kids**

ward to enjoying private life by fishing, camping, and going up to the Northern Islands with his family and children.

"I am appreciating my time with the kids. And that's

See **TORRES** on **Page 4**

### 'Over 11K hours of OT requested by DPS in one pay period in Dec.'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The transition team assigned to the Department of Public Safety found that in one pay

period in December, the department requested approval for over 11,000 hours in overtime, roughly one year and a half's worth of regular

See **OVER** on **Page 4**



#### BEWARE!

Everybody should exercise caution as thousands of Indo-Pacific man-o-war hydrozoans have been driven onto the western shores of Saipan by the steady high winds. Here some are seen on Wing Beach. Avoid wearing flip-flops, sandals, or going barefoot on the beaches for a few more days as the nematocysts (stinging cells) are still active even though the animals are on land and dying.

MARK FARMER

## INSIDE



### SUPPLEMENT

The ascension of Arnold I. Palacios as the 10th governor of the CNMI was full of drama.

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### WORLD

Ukraine praised the United States for including armored vehicles in its latest military aid.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Many facets of Prince Harry are revealed in his new memoir, often in explosive details.

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# Local

## Saipan Tribune donates \$2,000 to 5 non-profits

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

In the spirit of giving during the holidays, *Saipan Tribune*, along with advertising supporters donated a total of \$2,000 to five non-profit groups in the CNMI last Dec. 30.

For the start of what hopefully will become a yearly tradition, \$400 was given to each of the first five non-profits that benefited from the "Give Love on Christmas Day" supplement project.

The non-profits were the Boonie Babies Saipan, Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI Center for Living Independently, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and the Autism Society of the CNMI.

The Autism Society of the CNMI helps increase awareness about this developmental disorder, which affects how a person perceives and socializes with others, and serves as a resource for parents who may be in the dark as to what autism spectrum disorder is.

Romeo Cuellar said, "On behalf of the Autism Society of the CNMI we'd like to thank you [and everyone] for all the love and support from the community. Blessings!"

Boonie Babies Saipan provides access to animal-related resources and relocating animals out of the CNMI

Continued on Next Page



Julie Pagcaliwagan, treasurer of Autism Society of the CNMI, receives the donation from the *Saipan Tribune* team and Tan Holdings Corp. comptroller Judy Mendieta. SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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*Congratulations*  
to  
**Governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios,  
Lt. Governor-elect David M. Apatang,**  
and  
all newly elected officials of the CNMI  
on your inauguration.

May you be guided by the compass of truth  
and integrity as you lead the CNMI in the next four years.

*Hafa Adai!*

**Saipan Tribune**

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Grace Kielbach of Boonie Babies Saipan with the *Saipan Tribune* team and Tan Holdings Corp. comptroller Judy Mendieta.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Susan Satur, executive director of the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, receives the donation from the *Saipan Tribune* team.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Friends of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library team receives the donation from the *Saipan Tribune* team.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Cares for Animals director Beth Pliscou receives the donation from the *Saipan Tribune* team.

#### From Page 2

with the end goal of reducing the stray dog and cat population on the islands. More importantly, the group aims to foster respect for animal life by increasing awareness through education.

Grace Keilbach from Boonie Babies Saipan said, "All donations we receive are put toward providing daily care for our current fosters, our spay and neuter efforts, and flights for boonies to the [United] States. As we plan to have an upcoming flight at the end of January 2023, we will be putting the money donated by *Saipan Tribune* toward that. We are hoping to send about 20 boonie rescues stateside."

SCA's two-pronged mission is to provide low-cost veterinary services and reduce the stray animal overpopulation in the CNMI through spaying and neutering dogs and cats. SCA accomplishes this by adopting out animals that have been sterilized. In addition, SCA offers spay and neuter services, which are provided by visiting volunteer veterinarians that SCA recruits. Empowering people in the CNMI to care for their pets is the group's second goal and to meet this, they provide education about pet care and when they need to be taken to SCA.

"We are thankful for this donation and every single donation we receive because that is the only way we can stay open," said SCA direc-

tor Elizabeth Pliscou.

The CNMI Center for Living Independently is a non-profit agency dedicated toward ensuring the rights of people with disabilities to live fully integrated into the community with equal opportunities and choices in life.

Susan Satur from the CNMI Center for Living Independently said, "It will go on an adventure in the community. We are still voting either at the movies or a restaurant. They are so excited."

As for the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, it is a non-profit that was organized to promote the continuous existence and effectiveness of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The group holds several fundraising events yearly, including book sales with proceeds used to fund different library activities.

"On behalf of the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, we are truly honored and grateful to be a recipient of *Saipan Tribune's* yearly tradition of "Give Love on Christmas. ...These much-needed funds will help in providing free library programs and services for our entire community...which are sponsored by the Friends of the JKPL. We continue to thrive, thanks in part to funding support from donors such as yourself..." said Martin Naputi.

*Saipan Tribune* thanks the following businesses for their support of this project:

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# Ninth Circuit's Civics Contest focuses on constitutional amendments, ratification

**SAN FRANCISCO**—"The 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution: What Should Our Next Amendment Be?" is the theme of the 2023 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest,

which is an annual essay and video competition open to high school students in states and territories within the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit.

The contest offers high school

students an opportunity to win cash prizes while learning about the history of the U.S. Constitution, the constitutional amendments and the ratification process. The contest asks

students to address three questions: (1) What amendment would you propose for our Constitution? (2) Why? and (3) How would you get your amendment ratified?

The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private, parochial, charter schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status. Students residing in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are encouraged to participate. Children and relatives of federal court employees are not eligible to participate.

A total of \$11,400 in cash prizes will be awarded to the essay and video winners at the circuit level—\$3,000 for first place, \$1,700 for second place and \$1,000 for third place. Furthermore, first-place winners at the circuit level will be invited to attend the 2023 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, where students will participate in a special program and have an and/or opportunity to meet members of the bench, bar and academia. Additionally, many students will have a chance to win cash prizes in local civics contests sponsored by

federal courts throughout the Ninth Circuit that will select their winners, who will advance as finalists at the circuit level.

The contest is sponsored by the Ninth Circuit's Public Information and Community Outreach Committee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal courts that comprise the Ninth Circuit. "The PICO Committee, whose members include attorneys and judges, encourages students to participate in the contest," said Senior District Judge John Kronstadt, PICO chair. "It provides a unique opportunity for you to learn about how our Constitution works, and the essential role of citizens in our democracy. We look forward to reading your essays and viewing your videos. Doing so always encourages us about the ability of your generation of citizens to sustain our system of government."

The contest opened on Jan. 4, 2023. Essay and/or video entries can be submitted by uploading the file(s) on the civics contest website. Deadline to submit entries is 11:59pm Pacific Time, Monday, March 13, 2023. Finalists will be announced in May and the winners in June. **(PR)**

## PALACIOS

From Page 1

An as yet unnamed U.S. Congress member and U.S. Department of Defense officials are expected to be among the dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony for Palacios and Apatang.

The inauguration for the 20 members of the 23rd House of Representatives will be in the House chamber at 10am. The inauguration for the nine members of the 23rd Senate will be in the Senate chamber at 11am.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro will administer the oath of office for Palacios, while Associate Justice John A. Manglona will administer for Apatang.

Patricia Coleman, the interim dean at the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Services, will serve as the mistress of ceremony at the gubernatorial installation. Rev. Fr. Isaac Ayuyu will do the invocation. Sophia Geinger will sing the U.S. and CNMI anthems.

Free lunch will be served on the north side of the multi-purpose center at 11:15am.

Immediately after the ceremony, dignitary luncheon will be held at the Saipan World Resort's Tapochau restaurant.

At 6pm, a Marianas Ball will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's Magellan. A Dignitary Ball will be held at the Kensington Hotel Saipan's Kensington Hall also at 6pm.

Palacios served as the 12th lieutenant governor of the CNMI, serving alongside Gov. Ralph DLG Torres from January 2019 to January 2023.

Palacios served as the Senate president during the 20th Legislature from January 2015 to January 2017. He served four terms in the House and served as House speaker during the 16th Legislature from January 2008 to January 2010.

Palacios also served as the secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources from February 2012 to January 2015.

Palacios attended Mt. Carmel

School and earned his bachelor of science degree in Business Administration/Management at the Portland State University in Oregon.

Apatang, a U.S. Army veteran, served as mayor of Saipan since January 2015. He used to serve in the House. He ran for mayor as an independent in 2014. He just completed his second term as Saipan mayor.

At the House of Representatives inauguration, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos will administer the oath of office. At the inaugural session, Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is expected to be re-elected as speaker, while Rep. Joel C. Camacho will possibly be elected vice speaker and Rep. Edwin K. Propst as floor leader.

In the Senate inauguration, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja will administer the oath of office. Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) will likely be elected as president, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) as vice president, Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) as floor leader, and Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) as legislative secretary.



Police Lt. Dan Smith explains the Department of Public Safety's traffic control plan for Monday's inauguration ceremony for governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang during a press conference Thursday morning. Also in the photo are DPS Highway Patrol commander Capt. Juan Mendiola and Oscar M. Babauta, who is the vice chairman of the inauguration subcommittee.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## TORRES

From Page 1

something that I truly value today," said the 43-year-old Torres, who appears happy, during a radio interview Friday, the last business day of his term as governor.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang will be sworn in today, Monday, as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

Torres said his children are excited for the summer, with his 8-year-old daughter wanting a fishing pole, so he got her one.

"I just want to do some things that I've wanted to do for a long time—spending more time with my kids and enjoying my private life," he said.

Torres said he just realized over the holidays that the oldest of his six children might be leaving the CNMI next year for his studies. "So I will take this time to really enjoy my kids, my family," he said.

Torres said he has no ambition or de-

sire to go back to politics as of this time, but feels blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve the CNMI as a member of the House of Representatives, the Senate, as the CNMI's lieutenant governor, and then as governor.

"That is something that I will be forever grateful," he said.

Torres thanked all members in the community and his supporters who stood by him along the way, whether it's his first campaign or his last.

He congratulated Palacios and Apatang again as they are sworn in today, Monday, "to take care of the community."

"I wish them the best and I look forward for good things to happen here in the Commonwealth," said Torres as he underscored the need to rally behind Palacios and Apatang and give them all the support because "we are one community, one love."

As to what he considers his most challenging time as governor, Torres has no doubt that it's the global COVID-19 pandemic, which he described as "very challenging" in the first six months to a year because no-

body knew anything about it.

Torres said they had to shut down the government, implemented a curfew, and made unprecedented actions that sometimes were unpopular.

"But I had no problem making those decisions in making sure that we protect everyone in the community," he said.

Possibly his second most challenging time was Typhoon Soudelor in 2015. At the time, he was the lieutenant governor.

Torres said that, although Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 was a much bigger disaster, they already had the network in place at the time.

He noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency landed on Saipan before the actual Yutu disaster. "I got my 24-hour declaration approved by President Trump. So there's a lot of things that were in place. We had generators on the wells," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## OVER

From Page 1

work hours.

The transition team assigned to DPS under the leadership of Rep. Ed Propst (D-Saipan) submitted their report on the department last Jan. 3, and the report is now being reviewed by governor-elect Arnold Palacios and Lt. governor-elect David M. Apatang.

One of the main items noted in the transition report was the whopping 11,127.25 hours in overtime the department requested approval for from Dec. 4, 2022, to Dec. 17, 2022.

"Upon reviewing timesheets and OT requests from January 2022 to present day, DPS has been paying out excessive OT accruals for the same group of officers (some higher-ranking officers and certain lower ranking ones as well—specific to certain sections). For pay period 26 (12/04/22 to 12/17/22), DPS requested approval to pay out 11,127.25 hours (about one and a half years' worth of regular hours worked) of OT for 174 officers out of 192," said the report.

The transition team also found that of the over 11,000 hours in overtime, about 4,000 OT hours were requested for 40 officers who are allegedly part of former DPS commissioner Robert Guerrero's "inner circle."

"Additionally, about 40 officers (both high ranking and low ranking) alone accrued an estimated total of 4,000 hours (about 5 and a half months of regular hours worked) of OT," the report stated.

Upon reviewing these timesheets, the transition team believes possible fraud and theft of government time was committed.

"There is evidence of possible fraud/theft of government time in terms of excessive OT within the

same group of officers every pay period. OT per officer would run anywhere from 50 hours to 145 hours. First responders that are lower ranking officers are only allowed 30-40 hours OT maximum, whereas higher ranking officers were allowed to accrue OT past 40 hours, usually amounting to 60 or more each pay period, with one officer clocking in over 200 hours of overtime in one single pay period," the transition team reported.

Because of this, the transition team has recommended that a request be forwarded to the Office of the Public Auditor to audit the overtime at DPS for potential fraud.

Overall, the team recommends that the incoming commissioner restrict high ranking officers from accruing excessive overtime hours.

"The incoming DPS commissioner should restrict higher ranking officers from accruing OT, and only allow the lower ranking officers who are legally eligible to accrue OT," it said.

Also, the team recommended that biometric access be limited and manual input of hours should be approved first by the director of Police.

"Biometric access should be limited to one individual and manual input should require approval by director of Police (for police) and director of Administration (for civilians) before biometric print out is altered/corrected," the report said.

Lastly, the team recommended that the payroll section within DPS be made to update its standard operating procedures.

"The payroll section must create/update standard operating procedures and document requirements in regard to OT allowance/approval, administrative duty for officers, leave forms, etc. The payroll section should also hire one additional staff member to assist in the payroll section.

# Muña: Millions of medical referral promissory notes were forgiven

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña has disclosed that an audit conducted by the Office of the Public Auditor in 2021 showed that the outstanding balance of the promissory notes entered by the Medical Referral Services Office beginning in 1997 with MRSO beneficiaries was estimated to be \$11 million as of May 3, 2021, but that based on records pulled from the JD Edwards software system by CHCC in December 2022, the total outstanding was only about \$6.4 million.

Muña expressed concern about inaccurate records as shown by the significant \$4.6 million variance in a letter dated Dec. 14, 2022, to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

The large discrepancy in records by years is a further concern, said Muña in explaining CHCC's justification for MRSO promissory notes write-off/forgiveness.

She said OPA noted in its 2021 audit that promissory notes were not reconciled for accuracy and completeness.

Beginning in 1968 under the Trust Territory government, financial assistance has been available to eligible

CNMI residents to access off-island medical care through a publicly funded and administered service now known as the MRSO.

The MRSO has served as a travel and logistics coordinator for patients going off-island for care since its inception. The program also covers medical claim expenses for patients who meet the income eligibility requirements and have not yet met the lifetime caps.

Muña said that, according to available records, the program began entering into promissory agreements with MRSO beneficiaries who either hit the lifetime limit on medical coverage through the program; cannot afford their co-pay, or do not have insurance and do not qualify for the indigent program.

The CEO said that in June 2021, the Office of the Attorney General determined that the MRSO lacks the legal authority to enter such promissory arrangements. She said OPA recommended in its audit published in September 2021 that the MRSO should cease issuing promissory notes immediately.

Since the administration of the program transitioned from the Office of the Governor to CHCC in October 2021, no new promissory notes have been issued, Muña said.

She said CHCC does not intend to collect on outstanding promissory notes issued as the MRSO lacked the authority to issue promissory notes in the first place as determined by the OAG.

She said MRSO records indicate that every year from 2011 to 2020, the total number of patients with third-party coverage exceeds the number of patients sent through the program.

Muña said it's possible that a number of patients were covered under more than one health insurance plan.

"The data available do not

indicate what percentage of patients had more one type of health insurance, and how many had no health insurance at all," the CEO said.

She said it is not clear that patients' private and public health insurance coverage was maximized before medical expenses were covered by the MRSO.

Muña said it was common practice to send patients covered under Medicaid to providers that were not covered by the CNMI Medicaid program. This means, she said, that medical costs for patients may have been unfairly ac-

crued to the \$80,000 lifetime limit under the program, and therefore hit the limit sooner.

The CEO said that, as the OPA had pointed out in its audit, the MRSO has not been enforcing its processes for collections stated in its promissory notes.

She said OPA also determined that MRSO lacks standard operating procedures to identify which promissory notes have reached its statute of limitation for collection purposes.

Due to this lack, it is not clear whether MRSO patients were asked to sign promissory

notes before a third-party payor reimbursement was received. She said it's not clear whether that reimbursement would have been credited back to any promissory note the patient may have signed.

Muña said that, according to the CNMI Medicaid Agency, Medicaid was reimbursing MRSO anywhere from \$70,000 to \$210,000 per month for Medicaid patient referrals between 2019 and 2020.

The medical referral program is considered the payor of last resort, according to the program regulations.

## 'Ora di Cena' at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's resto

Giovanni's at Hyatt Regency Saipan is changing your Tuesday dinner plans by offering Ora di Cena, a four-course Italian Set Menu starting tomorrow, from 6pm to 9pm, something that Hyatt's patrons can look forward to at the start of the year.

Hyatt executive chef Matteo Fracalossi said that Ora di Cena is Italian for "it is dinnertime." In Italy, dinner time is an opportunity to reconnect with family or friends after a full day of doing their own things.

"Every meal is special in Italy but dinner time is especially so because it is a time to enjoy with the ones you love. With Ora di Cena, people can expect something different that has not been done before on Saipan," he said. "I am excited because this is the first time that we are doing something out of the box and hopefully, our guests and community will like it."

The four-course dinner

set menu includes salad, pasta, entrée, and dessert. Italian food staples like pasta, risotto; "Fiorentina," which is a grilled Ohio certified Angus porterhouse; roasted potato, grilled vegetable black truffle jus and Tiramisu della casa for dessert, to name a few.

With these choices, guests can elect one option from each course. "We try to give our guests Italian food presented in a different way but always true about Italian authentic flavor," Fracalossi said.

The Ora di Cena four course Italian dinner set, which took over the Steak & Seafood dinner set menu, is \$110 for two people, \$60 for one person and guests can opt to get a beverage package that includes wine, sparkling or beer for only \$18. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome.

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## WEATHER ADVISORIES

### Heavy rain until Tuesday evening

Locally heavy rainfall is possible early Monday morning through Tuesday evening, based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point.

A slowly-developing circulation will approach the Marianas from the east-southeast early this week. As this occurs, a shear line will sink slowly southeast and is expected to be positioned from near Saipan to Rota's western coastal waters. The interaction of these two features will likely lead to periods of locally heavy rainfall and gusty winds.

As for rainfall totals, current indications are for 3 to 6 inches of rainfall to occur with localized amounts upwards of 8 to perhaps 10 inches for Tinian and Saipan. Further south for Guam and Rota, a solid 3 to 6 inches looks good at this point, but some of the higher terrain across southern Guam and Rota could see a few higher amounts.

Closely monitor this developing situation in the event watches, advisories, or warnings are needed. Forecasts will likely change to some extent in the next few days,

mainly to make minor adjustments to rainfall totals and perhaps timing.

Localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. (PR)

### Flood watch in effect

A flood watch remains in effect through Monday afternoon caused by excessive rainfall.

Excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Low-water crossings may be flooded.

CNMI residents are advised to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings. Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop. If living near streams and rivers, prepare to move items away from stream and riverbanks. Make sure storm drains nearby are not clogged, especially in low-lying areas. (PR)

### Risk of rip currents high

The public is being warned of a high risk of rip currents in north facing reefs of the Marianas from Monday morning through late Monday night. Also, a high surf advisory remains in effect from 6am Monday to 6am Tuesday.

For the high surf advisory, large breaking waves of 7 to 9 feet are expected in the surf zone. For the high rip current risk, dangerous rip currents are expected.

These conditions will create dangerous swimming and

surfing conditions and localized beach erosion. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

The public is advised to stay out of the water along north facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help.

### Warning out vs sailing on Tinian, Saipan

A small craft advisory is now in effect until 6am Tuesday. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions.

Northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots, with occasional gusts of up to 35 knots and seas of 8 to 10 feet are expected on Tinian and Saipan coastal waters. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft. (PR)

### Special craft advisory on Rota

A small craft advisory is in effect on Rota until 6am today, Monday. Northeast winds of 15 to 20 knots, with gusts of up to 30 knots are expected in Rota coastal waters until 6am. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

An approaching trade-wind disturbance is interacting with a descending shear line, producing winds hazardous to small craft.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. (PR)



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(THIS IS AD IS PAID FOR NMHC WITH HUD FUNDS)

## NMHC RFP 2023-002

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: February 03, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

### Architect-Engineer Services for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Infrastructure Projects

The RFP packet is available on January 03, 2023, online at [www.nmhc.gov.net](http://www.nmhc.gov.net) and at [www.cnmi-cdbgdrr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdrr.com) by clicking on the "Procurement Tab". All interested firms shall submit their intent to participate via email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net).

All inquiries questions or requests for clarification must be submitted in writing to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021, no later than 10:00 AM local time on January 16, 2023.

This procurement is in accordance with the NMHC Procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with NMIAC §100-60-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) of the NMHC Procurement Regulations. To also include the provisions of NMHC Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section §100-60-725 & §100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at [officemanager@nmhc.gov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhc.gov.net) during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/  
Merced M. Tomokane  
Chairwoman  
NMHC Board of Directors

# Congratulations



Governor Arnold I. Palacios

Lt. Governor David M. Apatang

Governor Arnold I. Palacios, Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang  
and all the newly elected public officials  
of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

May God be your guide as you prepare to take on the responsibilities and  
challenges of doing what is best for the people of the CNMI.

From the management and staff of



**JOETEN ENTERPRISES INC.**



# US moves to reopen Solomon Islands embassy to counter China

By MATTHEW LEE  
AP DIPLOMATIC WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration is plowing ahead with plans to reopen the U.S. embassy in the

Solomon Islands in a bid to counter China's increasing assertiveness in the Pacific.

The State Department has informed Congress that it will establish soon an interim embassy in the Solomons' capital of Honiara on the site of a former U.S. consular property. It said the modest embassy will at first be staffed by two American diplomats and five local employees at a cost of \$1.8 million per year. A more permanent facility with larger staffing is eventually envisioned, it said.

The department notified lawmakers nearly a year ago that China's growing influence in the region made re-opening the U.S. embassy in the Solomon Islands a priority. Since that notification last February, the Solomons have signed a security pact with China and the U.S. has countered by sending several high-level delegations to the islands.

The U.S. closed its embassy in Honiara in 1993 as part of

a post-Cold War global reduction in diplomatic posts and priorities.

But it has since determined that China's rise as a regional and global power demands American attention as part of its Indo-Pacific strategy to counter Beijing, particularly in the Solomon Islands, which were a key battleground in the Pacific theater during WWII and where pro-American sentiment had been high.

"We are seeing this bond weaken as the People's Republic of China aggressively seeks to engage Solomon Islands' political and business elites, utilizing a familiar pattern of extravagant promises, prospective costly infrastructure loans, and potentially

dangerous debt levels," the department said in a notice to Congress dated Dec. 23 that was obtained by The Associated Press.

"The United States needs a permanent diplomatic presence in Honiara to effectively provide a counterweight to growing (Chinese) influence and deepen our engagement with the region commensurate with its importance," the notice said.

"Before (China) becomes strongly embedded in Solomon Islands, now is the opportunity to bolster Solomon Islands' resilience and deepen cooperation on security, democratic governance, and a free and open economy," it said. "The absence of an embassy has severely constrained our

ability to engage with this strategically situated country with alacrity and precision."

Since the administration first announced its plan to re-open the U.S. embassy in the Solomons in February, the nation moved ahead with a security pact with China, sparking fears that Beijing might establish a military base on the islands. China has also increased its economic and infrastructure assistance to the Solomons as it has done with other Pacific islands.

The Solomon Islands prime minister assured the U.S. and other Western allies, like Australia and New Zealand, after signing the deal with Beijing in April that he would not allow China to set up a naval base in his country, but concern about Chinese intentions has not abated.



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### OPEN POSITION:

#### Project Assistant

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently and be a self-starter
- Competent with Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Can update website and social media platforms
- Able to organize, compile, and interpret data
- Have reliable transportation

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:  
islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com

### APPLY NOW

MORE INFORMATION:  
670-287-7037  
www.islandtrainingcnmi.com



## A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### (1) PART-TIME SHELTER WORKER

For more information, job description and an application, visit the Karidat main office at the Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of a valid CNMI Driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.  
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023 AT 4:00 PM.

## ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION OF OF SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT CO., LTD

Saipan International Hotel Management Co., Ltd, a CNMI Company/Corporation. Does Hereby Certify Hantang International Investment Group  
**First:** That dissolution was authorized by the company on December 31, 2022.  
**Second:** That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, Section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation regulations.  
**Third:** That process may be served against the corporation at the following address: PMB 388 BOX 10003 Saipan MP 96950.  
**Fourth:** That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.  
**Fifth:** That number of votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.  
In Witness Whereof, Said, Saipan International Hotel Management Co., Ltd, has caused this article of dissolution to be signed by the following Board of Directors on this 31st day of December 2022.

Approved By:  
/s/ Lianfu Wen /s/ Xiangdong Yu /s/ Yu Wen  
President Vice-president Treasurer/Secretary  
Email: ovr233333588@gmail.com Contact No.: (670) 989-9969



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 23 - 039  
REANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: December 27, 2022  
Closing Date: January 10, 2023

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Rota Administration
LOCATION:	Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

#### Duties:

- The Fiscal Assistant updates and verifies customer account or work order information; enters and balances payment data; prepares timekeeping records; may work in the field obtaining and entering customer utility meter information, and replacing or disconnecting utility meters and services.
- Receives customer payments; balances and records cash and other payment receipts; verifies receipts against payment system data; and prepares deposits.
- Monitors and updates customer account information; researches account discrepancies or unusual meter readings; calculates payment information for past-due accounts, new installations and security deposits; reports research findings; and/or follows up on service or work order status.
- Greets customers or receives calls; responds to customer inquiries such as account balance information, payment due dates, minimum payment amounts due or general information inquiries; refers customers to appropriate resources.
- Copies and scans documents; maintains and organizes files records, reports and accounting transaction documentation.
- Updates and maintains spreadsheet reports; prepares fiscal transaction reports or other work activity reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

#### Minimum Requirements:

**Education:** High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education Program.

**Knowledge of:** Cash handling practices (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.

**Skills in:** Receiving, posting and reconciling payments, cash receipts or account information; Verifying and updating account or utility meter information; Providing customer service and responding to inquiries; Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131  
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-23-012

### Carbon Change Out of Granular Activated Carbon Filters (10 Sites)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for Carbon Change Out of Granular Activated Carbon Filters (10 Sites) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies, and materials necessary for the removal and installation of GAC and Gravel media replacement, disposal of spent GAC and Gravel media, possible sample collection, transportation, and the possible supply of gravel media, analyses of spent media, and additional waste containers/drums for disposal, if necessary. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 180 calendar days from date of award of contract.

**The project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **December 28, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-012, Carbon Change Out of Granular Activated Carbon Filters (10 Sites)" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2023, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 4, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

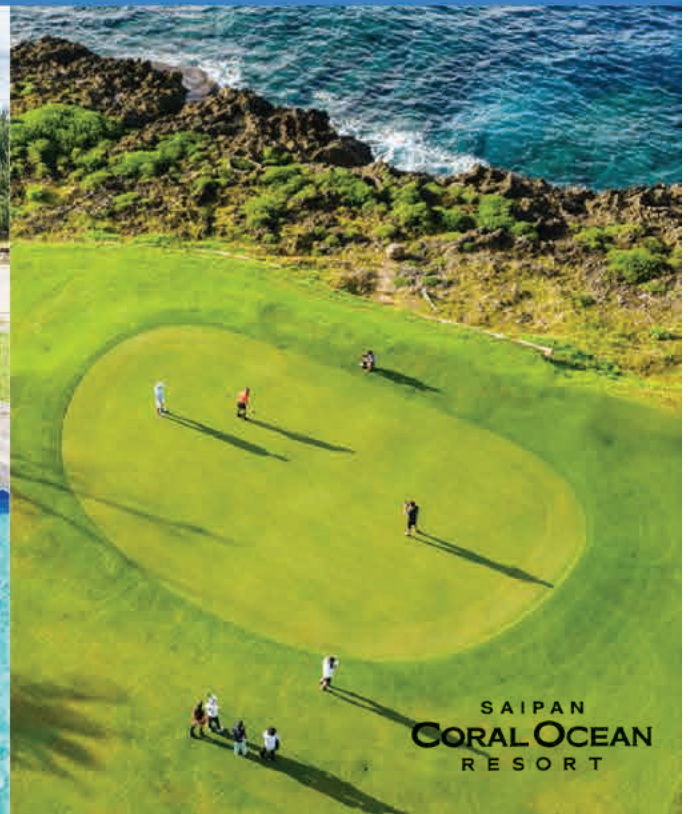
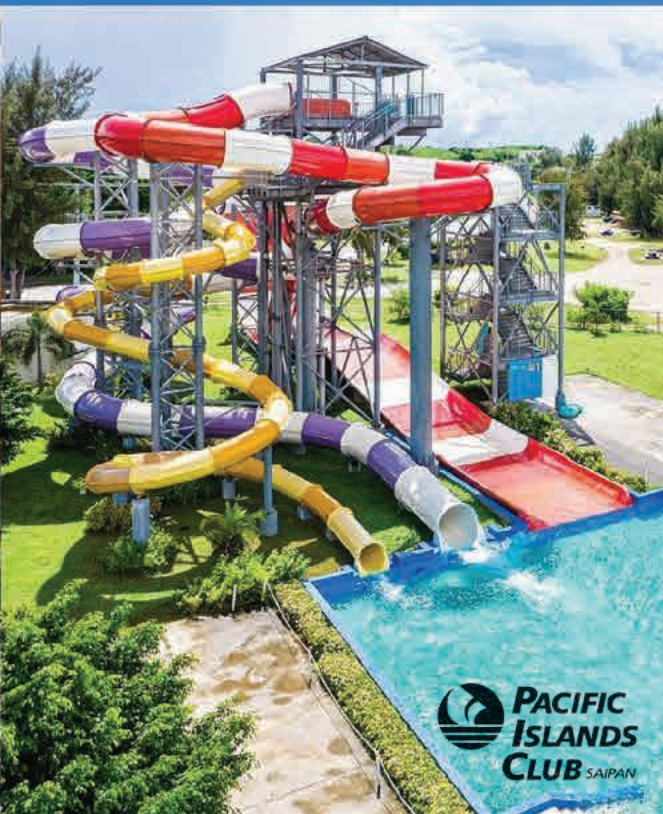
GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

HERE'S TO  
THE BRIGHT FUTURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH!



OUR SINCERE  
*Congratulations!*  
GOVERNOR ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
LT. GOVERNOR DAVID M. APATANG



From the staff and management of E-Land Saipan

## SCC awards educational scholarships to 17 students

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has awarded scholarships to 17 CNMI students as part of its annual tradition of supporting students by defraying the cost of pursuing either their postsecondary education or trades education.

The two scholarships are the Chamber Education Award and the Pellegrino Vocational Education Award. The Chamber Education Award is for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota high school graduates or ongoing college residents seeking

higher education at the Northern Marianas College on Saipan. The Pellegrino Vocational Education Award is for Saipan residents seeking further training at vocational trades institutions on-island.

The SCC Educational Scholarship awardees are:

- Anushi Joshi
- Arlene R. Ayuyu
- Ayesha Mustansar
- Bonnie Gio M. Sagana
- Claire E. Barrozo

- Eloise Rose Lopez
  - Jefferson S. Cunanan
  - Joananie A. Signio
  - Maxine A. Rabago
  - Patricia Del Pak
  - Rownel Jody V. Coloma
  - Yi Huang
- The Pellegrino Scholarship awardees are:

- Anthony Dela Cruz II
  - K-Son Elieisar
  - Lloyd Vincent Javier
  - Renaluz L. Andebor
  - Theresa Maria Attao Toves
- The SCC said in a statement yesterday that it gave the schol-

arship awards to students who display academic excellence, extracurricular success, leadership force, and volunteerism. It did not indicate the amounts awarded to each student.

“The SCC Education and Workforce Development Committee is committed to this annual tradition to support students by defraying the cost of pursuing their postsecondary education, thus improving our local workforce, and solving issues impacting our community,” the statement said.

“We would like to thank the community scholars for their hardworking efforts of submitting their applications and documents to our office.”

Scholarship awardees apply for the grants and are selected by the SCC Education and Workforce Development Committee.

This Scholarship Program is made possible through proceeds of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2022 Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. *(Saipan Tribune)*

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport  
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail: cpa.admin@psicom.com  
Website: https://cnmiports.com

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2023**

<b>Opening date:</b> January 09, 2023 <b>Location:</b> SAIPAN <b>Position(s):</b> (1) Receptionist/Secretary (1) Ports Police Officer I	<b>Closing date:</b> January 27, 2023 <b>SALARY</b> PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr. to \$15.10/hr.) PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
<b>Location:</b> PORT OF SAIPAN <b>Position(s):</b> (1) General Maintenance III	<b>SALARY</b> PL 7/1 to 7/12 (\$9.73/hr. to \$16.65/hr.)
<b>Location:</b> TINIAN <b>Position(s):</b> (2) General Maintenance I (2) Custodial I 4) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee	<b>SALARY</b> PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.) PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr. to \$12.42/hr.) PL 5/1 (\$8.83/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 27, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

## Suspect in Bergeron murder found guilty

By JOYCE MCCLURE  
PACIFIC ISLAND TIMES

One of the two defendants in the killing of Yap's former acting attorney general, Rachelle Bergeron, was found guilty of murder charges.

Yap State Court Associate Justice Jonathan M. Tun issued the verdict Thursday, convicting Anthony Tun Teteeth who was implicated in the Oct. 14, 2019, incident that shocked the community and made international headlines.

Bergeron received three fatal shots after returning home from jogging along with her dog, which also died in the shooting.

“As gruesome as it may seem, the court is left with the only conclusion possible: that defendant did intention-

ally cause the death of Rachelle Bergeron,” the court said, citing the fatal gunshots sustained by the American lawyer, as well as the damage to the government house and the victim's vehicle.

In response to the defense attorney's argument that Tun's intention was just “scare the victim,” the court pointed out that “there is a whole wide range of acts that defendant could have taken to effect the scaring of the victim without using a shotgun, firing three times, while aiming at the victim.”

Tun was charged on Nov. 20, 2019 along with Francis Choay Buchun, who was

named co-conspirator.

The case took more than three years to conclude due to the FSM's closed border during the pandemic.

Tun was slapped with 19 charges including conspiracy to commit murder, murder,



Bergeron

manslaughter, negligent homicide, and assault with a dangerous weapon, among others.

He was acquitted of charges of threats, criminal coercion, and threats to influence official matters.

The judge has yet to set a date for sentencing, but it is usually two to three weeks after the verdict is read, according to court procedures.

Under the Yap State Code, murder is punishable by 10 years to life imprisonment, or a maximum fine of

\$10,000—or both.

Buchun was charged with 19 identical counts. Closing statements in his trial were made in court last week.

Yap State's Chief Justice Cyprian Manmaw is expected to hand down a verdict on Buchun on Jan. 13.

The prosecution, led by the government's attorney, Jeffrey S. Tilfas, maintained that the two defendants “acted in concert” to plan and execute “the violent act.”

The FSM Supreme Court will hear the defendants' cases for two violations of ammunition and weapons acquisition and/or possession in February.

*Editor's Note: Originally published in Pacific Island Times at <https://www.pacificisland-times.com/post/defendant-in-bergeron-murder-case-found-guilty>*

**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES  
CUC-RAESP-23-004**

**A&E Design Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System Preliminary Engineering Report**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Preliminary Engineering Reports (PER) for a Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System on Tinian and Rota. The services shall include preparation of the PER as per USDA RUS Bulletin 1780-2.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.*

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email to marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office via email after registration.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal** in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RAESP-23-004, A&E Services for Tinian Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System & Rota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System – Preliminary Engineering Report”,** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m., (ChST) on January 18, 2023. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 28, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater, Engineer – via email, nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org; Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Chief Engineer at email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-23-009**

**SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for “Commodity Groups”.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-009, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 19, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 29, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org; Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, Jr., CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**  
Executive Director

**MANNY BOYER SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

# CELEBRATING A NEW ERA



**Governor  
Arnold I. Palacios**



**Lt. Governor  
David M. Apatang**

A momentous occasion and a testament to your hard work and dedication. Triple J is honored to be a part of this historic moment and wish your administration and our great Commonwealth the best as you begin your term.



GREAT HARVEST BREAD CO. • SURF CLUB RESTAURANT • BAR-K-DINER • PAYLESS SUPERFRESH & TRUCKLOAD STORE  
IVESTAR WHOLESALER • WHOLESALER TO EVERYONE • TRIPLE J MOTORS • HERTZ & DOLLAR RENT-A-CAR • SURFRIDER RESORT HOTEL  
TINIAN WESTERN LODGE • OCEAN RIDGE HOMES • SAIPAN COMFORT HOMES • SANDY BEACH HOMES • TRIPLE J CATERING  
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# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## Chaos in the House over whether McCarthy can succeed Pelosi underscores her skills as speaker

In an age in which national parties have less clout than ever, being and becoming a congressional leader are both very difficult tasks. So the chaos on view this week among House Republicans—with as many as 21 of 222 GOP members blocking the selection of a new speaker and preventing the House from starting its new session—can be seen as a testament to the skills of the last speaker.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., faced some headaches, such as a 2018 takeover of her office by climate activists including then-Rep.-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. But they never turned into the sort of migraines now afflicting California House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy, who seemingly can't get the 218 votes he needs to become speaker in his ninth term in Congress. After becoming the first and so far only female leader of the House in 2007, the daughter of a famous Baltimore mayor added to her history by doing a remarkable job of keeping House Democrats united and able to achieve legislative landmarks, such as the 2010 enactment of the Affordable Care Act and the passage in December of the Respect for Marriage Act, which preserved same-sex marriages after Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas went public with his opposition.

Pelosi mostly avoided intraparty feuds amid tumultuous and even toxic national politics. It was striking to see the Republican who preceded her as speaker—Ohio Rep. John Boehner—appear at a tribute to Pelosi last month in which he declared that “no other speaker of the House in the modern era, Republican or Democrat, has wielded the gavel with such authority or such consistent results.” Pelosi's wins preceded her party's and the nation's. Facing demands and defections in 2018, with her own reelection as speaker uncertain, she pledged to limit herself to two more terms, luring hesitant Democrats back to her side and never enduring the public humiliation McCarthy faces now. In so doing, she showed skills her successor will envy this year.

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## A heavenly debate—JFK and Benedict XVI

As Catholic scholars and prelates pay homage to the legacy of Benedict XVI after Thursday's funeral outside St. Peter's Basilica, we can fortunately reflect upon pope emeritus's proudly conservative influence from a unique perspective. It is fictitious, yet verifiably authentic.

Today, we are envisioning a heavenly reprise of CNN's old "Crossfire" show, as broadcast from a never-anticipated intersection of political ideology and doctrinal theology. Inside the pearly gates, two renowned authorities meet for the first time. They welcome the opportunity to finally and respectfully debate the historic question both had famously, but only separately, addressed.

Welcome to "Crossfire." Here is today's question: Can Americans ever again elect a Roman Catholic as president with assurance that the president will not govern by taking dictation from the pope?

Let's meet our famous guests:

—FOR THE AFFIRMATIVE: From Boston, Massachusetts, the future President John F. Kennedy. As the 1960 Democratic presidential candidate, he dealt head-on with this question, addressing Protestants at the Greater Houston Ministerial Association—and was elected America's first Catholic president. The future president's "Crossfire" words today are quotes from his 1960 speech.

—FOR THE NEGATIVE: From Bavaria, Germany, and later Vatican City, the future Pope Benedict XVI. Ten months before becoming pope, as Germany's Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, he raised this question to new prominence during the U.S. presidential campaign of pro-choice Catholic Democrat John Kerry. Writing in his role as Vatican arbiter of Church doctrine, the then-cardinal sent a letter to the head of the U.S. Catholic bishops' task force on issues concerning politicians (Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, D.C.), boldly outlining how the church will treat politicians who don't conform to church doctrine. The future pope's "Crossfire" words today are quotes from his 2004 letter.

(Today's "Crossfire" column recasts and updates one I wrote in 2005.)

Mr. Kennedy, please begin.

THE FUTURE PRESIDENT: "I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute—where no Catholic prelate would tell the President (should he be Catholic) how to act, and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote."

THE FUTURE POPE: "The Church teaches that abortion or euthanasia is a grave sin. ... In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to 'take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law or vote for it.'" (He was quoting from a church encyclical.)

THE FUTURE PRESIDENT: "I believe in an America that

**By MARTIN SCHRAM**  
Tribune News Service

*Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.*



is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish—where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source—where no religious body seeks to impose its will directly or indirectly upon the general populace or the public acts of its officials."

THE FUTURE POPE: "Christians have a 'grave obligation of conscience not to cooperate formally in practices which, even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law. ... This cooperation can never be justified either by invoking respect for the freedom of others or by appealing to the fact that civil law permits it or requires it.'"

THE FUTURE PRESIDENT: "I ask you tonight ... to judge me on the basis of my record of 14 years in Congress ... instead of judging me on the basis of these pamphlets and publications we all have seen that carefully select quotations out of context from the statements of Catholic church leaders, usually in other countries, frequently in other centuries."

THE FUTURE POPE: "Regarding the grave sin of abortion or euthanasia, when a person's formal cooperation becomes manifest ... his pastor should meet with him ... informing him that he is not to present himself for Holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin, and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist."

THE FUTURE PRESIDENT: "Whatever issue may come before me as President—on birth control, divorce, censorship, gambling or any other subject—I will make my decision in accordance with these views, in accordance with what my conscience tells me to be the national interest, and without regard to outside religious pressures or dictates. And no power or threat of punishment could cause me to decide otherwise."

In the 2020 presidential campaign, the Church's policies, as declared in 2004, were neither rescinded, nor repeated. Joe Biden, who says JFK inspired his life of public leadership, became the second Catholic U.S. president. In his book, "Promises to Keep," Biden recalled Kennedy's words, shortly before winning the 1960 West Virginia primary, when he told a largely Protestant crowd: "I refuse to believe that I was denied the right to be president the day that I was baptized."

And mainly, Biden recalled how JFK's words played in the Biden family's modest home: "My Irish mom was thrilled."

# McCarthy and the GOP have only themselves to blame for their humiliation

Fitting bookends framed the House Republicans’ first week of majority control/not control in a new Congress. Between them is a story of the party’s radicalism and dysfunction—past, present and, almost certainly, future.

Aptly, the week ends on the second anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, pro-Trump attack on the Capitol. It is a reminder that in one of House Republicans’ first acts of the previous Congress, two-thirds of them—two-thirds!—voted within hours of the failed coup to do just as the insurrectionists wanted: to overturn electoral votes for President-elect Joe Biden. Most of those Republicans are still in power, reinforced by newly elected election deniers. Several of them, evidence now suggests, allegedly plotted with the defeated Donald Trump to keep him in power, even by force (“Marshall Law!”).

Biden planned to mark the Jan. 6 anniversary at the White House by awarding the Presidential Citizen Medal to a dozen state officials, election workers and police who, unlike Republicans from Trump down, defended the Capitol and democracy. House Republicans have no plans to observe the date; they vow instead to investigate the investigators of the nation’s Jan. 6 betrayal.

As for how this week began? Republicans humiliatingly made history right off the blocks, as the first House majority in a century to fail to elect a speaker with a single roll call. Vote after vote, day after day, they exposed their divisions and all but confirmed their insanity: doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting a different result.

Republican “leader” Kevin McCarthy, who’s dreamed of becoming speaker since he arrived in Washington from Bakersfield, California, 16 years ago, sat with a game grin through his nationally televised embarrassment, even when he was mocked

by his far-right foes speaking into a mic just feet away.

Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert, apparently undaunted by her near-rejection in the midterm elections, noted Trump’s calls to her and other Never-Kevin zealots telling them “to knock this off” and support “My Kevin.” She defiantly suggested Trump call McCarthy instead and tell him to withdraw.

So much for the power of Trump’s vaunted endorsement, which McCarthy sold his soul to obtain. After Trump posted “VOTE FOR KEVIN” on his social network, McCarthy just kept losing by near-identical tallies.

However inconsequential it proved, Trump’s attempt to put his thumb on the speakership scale, and McCarthy’s welcoming of his aid, shattered another political norm. Historically, neither current nor former presidents have intervened in congressional leadership elections—nor have lawmakers sought their help—out of deference to Congress’ constitutional status as an independent branch of government and a check on the executive, not a parliamentary partner.

One thing is all but certain after the absurd uncertainty of the week: Dysfunction will be a hallmark of the Republican-controlled House going forward. The same narrow majority that allowed the anti-McCarthyites to hold the institution hostage this week portends more cabals willing to block congressional action repeatedly, not least on the spending and debt-limit measures essential to keeping the government open and the world’s largest economy stable.

Along with their slim majority, the radicalism of today’s Republicans spells trouble ahead for governance.

Their humiliation this week is a consequence of a nihilism that party leaders have sowed for more than a generation, dating to the time of Newt Gingrich’s “revolution” in the mid-’90s, through the tea-party years to the Trump takeover. When Republicans and their right-wing media allies feed voters anti-establishment and anti-compromise red meat, they reap a base that’s hooked on the stuff.

And yet, once Republicans win power in Washington, by definition the revolutionaries become the establishment and must compromise to govern. But the radicalized base doesn’t buy it, and the newly powerful eventually are pushed out.

By JACKIE CALMES  
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



For a quarter of a century now, we’ve watched a succession of Republicans rise only to be brought down by pressure from the right: former speakers Gingrich, John A. Boehner and Paul D. Ryan; former House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. And now, McCarthy, who even if he prevails has conceded so much power to his antagonists that he likely will be doomed to a short run as speaker.

As a former Gingrich revolutionary once told me, after quitting Congress in exasperation with members of his ever more radical party: “They don’t give a damn about governing.”

Gingrich this week called McCarthy’s foes “20 deranged disrupters.” He wondered: Have they “answered—or even thought about—the question: ‘And then what?’” (Republican leaders once tormented by a disruptive younger Gingrich must have rolled in their graves.)

For a radicalized Republican base that’s been a generation in the making, and for its anti-establishment foot soldiers in Congress, it’s all fight, all the time. And so it was that the new House Republican majority failed for days to perform its first, essential task of governance: electing a speaker.

One lengthy roll call after another, the House clerk read the words previously so unfamiliar at the opening of a Congress: “A speaker has not been elected.” Even the House chaplain seemed to have had enough; in opening one session, she prayed, “Free us from intransigence and impudence.”

Amen? Don’t count on it.

For the next two years, we’re all going to be captive to the intransigence that McCarthy helped stoke.

## Geriatric Grotesque Humoresque

LITERARY NOOK  
By JOEY CONNOLLY  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



### Hell? Oh, Operator is this Hell?

Hello, operator, wrong number? Is this Hell?  
He defied destructive devils some folks tell  
Stood upright in stance with limbs akimbo  
He fought tooth and nail, fought like hell  
To get into heaven and stay out of limbo  
When he sorely missed her more and more  
He walked for miles and miles to her house  
The dirt road was long his feet were sore  
He snuck through a window quiet as a mouse  
When inside his times were never a bore  
Years later he drank too much, drove too fast  
His heaven on earth was soon to be past  
Devils that haunt you while you’re alive  
You will meet in hell. That ain’t no jive.

### Usually The Nose Knows

Do you stick your nose in people’s business?  
Can your smell tell what meat is cooking  
Did you just give your snotty cold to me  
Can you tell what stinks without looking  
Are fine wine scents inside your proboscis  
Is your bad breath worse than your dogs  
Does your mustache tickle those you kiss  
Smell difference between cow poop and hogs  
Have you ever snorted heroin or crack  
Has your nose been sunburned, had pimples  
Vomited and your nose brought it back  
Enjoyed incense burning at Buddhist temples  
Salivated at kitchen smells at Thanksgiving  
Your nose knows some of this while living.

## Nuclear fusion is the energy source of the future

Last month, nuclear fusion topped headlines around the world when scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California announced an essential milestone in developing this nascent technology. They achieved “ignition,” meaning more energy came out of a reaction than was needed to make the reaction happen in the first place. Despite some significant remaining challenges, there are strong reasons to believe a fusion-powered future awaits us.

Achieving ignition was only the latest in a series of fusion breakthroughs. For instance, in early 2022, news sources announced that a Chinese reactor maintained a fusion reaction for 17 minutes at 158 million degrees Fahrenheit. That’s about five times the temperature of the sun.

One reason fusion is so promising is that it has the potential to revolutionize the way we power our economy. In theory, fusion can produce almost unlimited energy. The amount of energy released in a nuclear fusion reaction can be many times that of a chemical reaction. Fusion is also carbon-free, which is why it is sometimes labeled as the “holy grail” of clean energy.

There are still major hurdles facing this technology. Some are technological. Attaining ignition was important but not a game-changer, and many more such breakthroughs will need to happen, including improving the efficiency of the reaction many times over.

That said, we know that fusion works. It’s the process that powers stars like the sun. So, while the industry’s obstacles are significant, we have plenty of reason to believe they will be overcome eventually. The main question is when.

Another hurdle is whether fusion can be produced cheaply enough to compete with alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar, coal and traditional fission nuclear reactors. The lack of availability of tritium, which is often used as a fuel source, is an issue. A common form of fusion reactor combines tritium and deuterium to produce helium. Deuterium is not hard to obtain, as it can be produced from seawater, but tritium is extremely rare on earth and decays quickly. This could mean fusion reactors need help with obtaining the necessary inputs they need to operate, which could also make them uneconomical.

There are also risks associated with fusion. Although the risk of an out-of-control meltdown scenario, like what can occur with

By JAMES BROUGHTEL  
InsideSources.com

James Broughel is a senior research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



fission reactors, is a non-issue, fusion reactors still produce significant amounts of radiation that could leak in a crisis situation. Additionally, if unmonitored, fusion reactors can generate fissile materials like plutonium-239, which must be prevented from being produced and falling into the wrong hands.






There are just as many reasons to be optimistic. For one thing, the U.S. government is broadly supportive of fusion. The Biden administration and agencies like the Department of Energy are pumping millions into the technology, and plans are forming to build a fusion pilot plant in the United States. Private sector investment is also high.

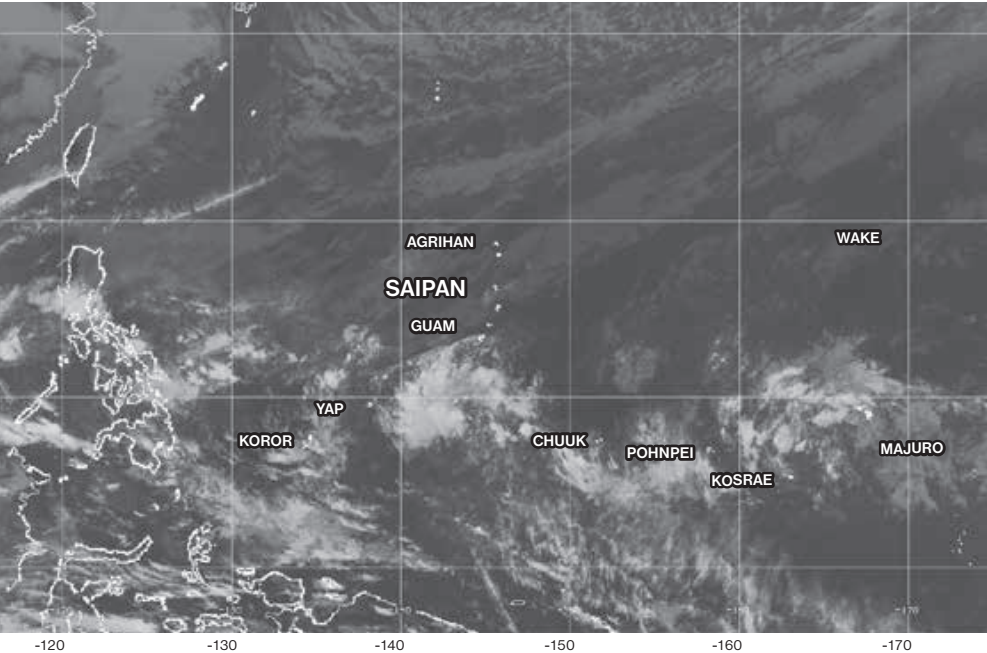
Additionally, fusion reactors rely on a variety of different methods. Some, like the Lawrence Livermore Lab, use lasers, while another common approach uses magnets to guide a super-hot plasma around a donut-shaped chamber called a tokamak. We don’t know what the best approach is. Fusion is ripe for experimentation, and the best thing we can do is encourage as much of it as possible.

One of the sadder legacies of the anti-nuclear movement in the United States is that it sidelined nuclear power for a generation. Now, with all the problems associated with global warming, it’s obvious that this was a huge missed opportunity. We should continue to invest in wind and solar and other sources of green energy, but these won’t revolutionize our economy the way fusion could.

Truly radical innovation will have to come from an energy source like fusion. The breakthrough in California pushed us one step closer to an energy revolution. The real question now is not whether a revolution is possible but whether we have the will to turn the energy future of our dreams into reality.

# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Frequent showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		A 50 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		Showers likely. The rain could be heavy at times. Cloudy		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy	
80°	75°	80°	75°	80°	76°	80°	76°	81°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:46 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters, with more near Guam, and a band of scattered showers south of the Guam Waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 7 to 9 feet, composed of a 5 to 6 foot east swell and a 6 to 8 foot north swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Tuesday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:45 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:24 AM	7:56 PM
Tuesday	-	9:05 AM	8:46 PM
Wednesday	-	9:42 AM	9:34 PM
Thursday	-	10:18 AM	10:22 PM
Friday	-	10:52 AM	11:09 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°	
London	Rain	55° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 51°	
Manila	Rain	84° / 75°	
Melbourne	Showers	64° / 50°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	47° / 33°	
Osaka	Rain	48° / 37°	
Paris	Rain	48° / 37°	
Busan	Sunny	43° / 30°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°	
Salem	Cloudy	50° / 35°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 45°	
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 23°	
Tokyo	Showers	50° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:07 AM	Low Tide	-0.46	
10:21 AM	High Tide	1.57	
3:38 PM	Low Tide	1.06	
8:11 PM	High Tide	1.57	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:46AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:30AM	7:25AM	Daily	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	8:00PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA189	12:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA189/174	12:40AM	8:46AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:46AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ624/701	3:50PM	10:35AM+1	3, 6 via Incheon	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:46AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
				OZ704/623	11:50PM	2:20PM+1	2, 5 via Incheon
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ623	9:00AM	2:20PM	3, 6
OZ624	3:50PM	7:40PM	3, 6	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	8:45PM	2:15AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS					
INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022					
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Congratulations




**Governor-elect Arnold Palacios**




**Lt. Governor-elect David Apatang**

**We wish you success as you lead and serve  
the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.**





COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation  
Saipan, MP 96950      Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after January 20, 2023, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
The Construction of a Multi-Purpose Facility for the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan	To provide the community an accessible indoor space facility for meetings, trainings and program outreach.	San, Jose Tinian	\$195,500.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerity Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **January 20, 2023, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS


The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a **period of fifteen (15) days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office by email to CPDHonolulu@hud.gov and CPD\_COVID-19OEE-HNL@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/  
Ralph DLG Torres  
Governor, CNMI

# Business

## Fujiaire Air Conditioner opens in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



MARK RABAGO

Fujiaire Air Conditioner is located across TransAmerica Hardware along Middle Road in Garapan.

Fujiaire Air Conditioner has landed in the CNMI with the opening of its office and showroom along Middle Road in Garapan.

General manager Danny Siu said he brought the Malaysia-based company to Saipan knowing too well that air-conditioning is a must on the tropical island.

Siu also said it's about time the community finally has access to air-conditioners that are of top quality without necessarily breaking the bank.


Originally from Hong Kong before moving to the Western Pacific 27 years ago, Siu has

purchased his fair share of air-conditioning units while owning a garment factory, apartment units, and a tour company.


While critical of the quality of Chinese brand air-con-

ditioners and the high price point of Korean and Japanese brands, Siu found his solution while scouring the internet for an affordable but high quality air-conditioner brand that

**See FUJIAIRE on Page 23**



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS  
FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2023

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,576,020.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$980,125.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$515,489.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$80,406.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2023.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

**Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 19, 2022.**

**You may also obtain the application online at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"**

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 20, 2023, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 20, 2023, will not be accepted.**

**A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.**

**The schedules for briefing are as follows:**

**February 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan**  
**February 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian**  
**February 16, 2023 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota**

**We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.**

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office at the NMC Campus, Building A; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/  
Jesse S. Palacios  
Corporate Director





# Congratulations

*Governor Palacios  
and  
Lt. Governor Apatang*

*From your friends at*





Wishing **Governor-Elect Arnold I. Palacios** and **Lt. Governor-Elect David M. Apatang**  
and our newly elected officials all the best as they embark on a new year of service  
for the betterment of the CNMI community.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Governor-Elect Arnold I. Palacios



Lt. Governor-Elect David M. Apatang



# DRAMA, TWISTS IN PALACIOS-APATANG ASCENSION

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, right, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang will take their oath at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe this morning, Monday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**S**imilar to the November 2022 general and gubernatorial runoff elections, the ascension of Arnold I. Palacios and David M. Apatang as the 10<sup>th</sup> governor and lieutenant governor positions of the CNMI was also full of drama and twists.

As the Palacios-Apatang administration officially starts today, people have high expectations with their campaign slogan “Rebuilding Trust,” as well as from the “unity pledge” that they had signed with then-Reps. Christina E. Sablan and Leila F. Staffler of the Democratic Party.

The Palacios-Apatang independent tandem and the Democratic Party coalesced to defeat then-governor Ralph DLG Torres and his running mate, then-Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan) in the gubernatorial runoff race.

Under the “unity pledge,” Palacios-Apatang agreed to address many issues, including opening up the CNMI’s financial books, ending nepotism and political intimidation within the government, restoring the integrity of law enforcement agencies, instituting election reform, improving and expanding access to healthcare, establishing a robust workforce development program for the CNMI, and completing long-delayed disaster recovery and infrastructure development projects.

It was in October 2021 when Palacios, at the time the lieutenant governor, confirmed with the media that he would be running for governor with then-Saipan Mayor Apatang as his running mate as an independent slate for the November 2022 general elections. Palacios stated that there’s a crisis in the Commonwealth, a crisis of confidence in the government.

Palacios made the announcement a day after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan disclosed on social media that he would be seeking re-election as a delegate.

Sablan’s announcement ended the Democratic Party’s hope to have him as their candidate for governor to challenge the candidacy of then-incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

On Oct. 21, 2021, Palacios and Apatang officially declared their candidacies, which was built on the campaign slogan “Rebuilding Trust.”

At that time, Palacios said he is not closing the door to the Democratic Party, which has invited them to submit a letter of intent to run. Apatang, however, in a separate interview, said they would indeed run on an independent slate.

At that time, the Democratic Party had yet to announce that

then-Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) would be their bet for governor.

A shocking twist to the story happened on May 31, 2022, when Palacios was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center after collapsing during a break while giving testimony in the criminal case against Torres in Superior Court.

Three days later, he was transported from Saipan to the Queens Center in Honolulu via military aircraft for additional testing and treatment. Palacios’ office said Palacios was experiencing in pain in his lower back.

Many people in the community and supporters of Palacios-Apatang were stunned as the big question was whether Palacios would still pursue his candidacy upon recovery.

On July 16, 2022, or after more than 40 days of being away from the CNMI, Palacios arrived on Saipan aboard a flight from Hawaii. It was a dramatic arrival as many of Palacios-Apatang supporters lined the Tun Herman Pan Road to greet Palacios and his wife, Wella. Among those who welcomed the couple were some Democratic Party lawmakers.

Palacios assured their supporters at that time that, regardless

of his physical health, he is still committed to give it his best to run as governor.

In the Nov. 8 general elections, Torres and Sablan topped in the three-way gubernatorial race after garnering 5,728 total votes, or an 838-vote lead over Palacios-Apatang, which received 4,890 votes.

As Torres-Sablan failed to get the majority votes after obtaining only 38.83% of the total votes, this paved the way for the Nov. 25 gubernatorial runoff race between Torres-Sablan and Palacios-Apatang.

Then-Rep. Sablan and her running mate, then-Rep. Staffler, of the Democratic Party, which got 4,132 votes, immediately conceded defeat and threw their support behind the Palacios-Apatang team in the runoff race.

Palacios and Apatang eventually came out victorious by a margin of 1,131 votes over Torres-Sablan in the Nov. 25 gubernatorial runoff race.

Palacios and Apatang will take their oath as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe this morning, Monday.



Then-Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, and then-Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang appear at the American Memorial Parks Visitors’ Center during a town hall meeting hosted by the Northern Marianas College.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## VOX POPULI

# What are your expectations for this new administration?

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES, LEIGH GASES, AND CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
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leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
REPORTERS/CORRESPONDENT

**T**oday signifies the beginning of a new era, with the CNMI officially installing Gov. Arnold Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. To mark this occasion, *Saipan Tribune* asked people at random what they hope and expect of the incoming Palacios-Apatang administration.

“My expectation for this new administration is utmost transparency, especially with remaining and incoming funds. I hope that this new administration will update the people on certain aspects of the government and listen and take the community’s suggestions for change to heart. I also hope for fairness in terms of employment opportunities within the government and for a much-needed raise in the CNMI’s minimum wage. In this new administration, I also hope that small local business owners are provided aid through fair and honest funding programs. Finally, I hope that in this administration, we finally see a change in how food stamps are disbursed, with coupons to debit cards to reduce the traffic and waiting time.

—**Suzette Zanduetta, Capital Hill**

“I am hoping that the Palacios-Apatang administration will put a large amount of resources toward fixing our crumbling infrastructures as this will create jobs and the money these workers make will, in turn, stimulate the economy. I hope that this administration will pay off government debts and raise the minimum wage to \$10 - \$12 an hour. I also hope that the new administration will provide assistance to people threatened by the two catastrophic typhoons (Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Soudelor) and the COVID-19 pandemic as many lost their homes, jobs, and food security. In addition, I expect the new administration to find ways to assist those who continue to live in poverty as a result of these unexpected events. Lastly, I expect the Palacios-Apatang administration to tackle and prioritize our hospital and to find solutions to improve our health care system.

—**Maryann Borja, Rota**

“I hope the new administration will finally carry out all the work that the former administration promised to fulfill like the promised renovations and expansion of our local hospital, an increase in minimum wage, and the promise to take care of the people.

—**Mark Dungca, China Town**

“I really just hope that this administration keeps true to its promise of change. The previous administration promised so much, later to find out that the community became a pawn to fulfill the greedy self-interest of those in high standing within the government. I know there is no perfect government, [but] I just hope that this administration does better for the sake of the Commonwealth.

—**Francine Ballesteros, Capital Hill**

“I expect this government to just be honest. So much was kept from the people and so much is still being kept from people to date. I expect his government will stick to their agreement with the Democratic Party and really be transparent. Many issues have come to light during the transition period, and I hope those are addressed. But, most importantly, I hope for a fair and honest government under this new administration.

—**Erica Reyes, As Terlaje**

“Honestly I just hope that this new administration finds a way to rebuild the CNMI from the rubble the previous administration left it in. I hope for a higher minimum wage because in this economy, you can’t live off a \$7.25-per-hour [wage]. The community has been put through so much these past years, been stolen from without our knowledge, and used to make the rich richer. I pray that this administration will be the complete opposite of that.

—**Roland Cabrera, Chalan Kanoa**

“I am looking forward to a peaceful and civil transition of power. With the new administration and those elected to serve in our 23rd Legislature, I expect to see the promises made during the campaign kept and fulfilled, specifically building trust. What I should see are our leaders setting good examples of progress through unity. What I hope to see is more awareness and education in the field of mental and behavioral health, frequently discussed, and made more of a priority. Congratulations again, to all those elected and I look forward to serving with you all!”

—**Joshua Castro, Navy Hill**

“I believe the expectations I have for this new administration are the same as everyone else and I believe they are somewhat high, and that also there really is a change. I think this new administration owes it to the people of the CNMI to fulfill the promises they said they will keep. These last couple of years have been a roller-coaster of emotions and a big thought I have is that some of the parks and playgrounds are better maintained and fixed [than others]. As a single parent, going to the playground across MHS used to be a lot of fun for my kids but now it’s boarded up with pallets. I know it’s only the beginning so I’m hoping for the best for now. I know things don’t happen overnight so, hopefully there is a change.”

—**Robert Mojica, Chalan Kanoa**

“I expect the new administration to do their absolute best and work for the best interest of the people in the CNMI. It’s very hard to lead here because it’s such a small island. You will always be the topic of discussion and be on the firing line. Some will never be satisfied and it comes with the job. I trust the honorable Gov. Palacios and the honorable Lt. Gov. Apatang will do the best for the people of the CNMI as all their predecessors did before them. I wish them and their administration the best and pray for their success to take care of us.”

—**Edward Dela Cruz Jr., San Vicente**

“The one thing that I’d like is a good foundation for education. I’m not sure how they’d do it but just supporting the kids in the schools and giving nice benefits to teachers.”

—**Justin Royce Agustines, China Town**

“I think we can expect big changes and equal service for locals and foreign nationals, and I hope they do what they said they would on their platform during the elections. More equal benefit distribution, especially with federal funds. So hopefully, it will happen in their administration. Good luck to our new governor and lieutenant governor.”

—**Jimmy Mira, Sadog Tasi**

“We expect more jobs to be opened up for people who really need it and will work to better help our society. Involving the community in sharing their ideas/suggestions on how to shape the new government is also a good step in making the people’s voice heard, validated, and involved without feeling lost.”

—**Danica Guevarra, Susupe**



“I hope there will be more jobs, more opportunities, a wage increase, and there will be more help for CW-1 workers.”

—**Reynalynn Agbayani, Songsong, Rota**

“I expect them to do as what they’ve ran their whole campaign on: ‘Rebuilding Trust.’ He has said many times that they will be transparent with the people. I just expect them to do as what they have promised. Bettering the CNMI.”

—**Mary Jane Tenorio, Chalan Piao**

“I expect them to give more opportunities to qualified workers, not just based on education, or even hiring based on political views, but on experience and skills. To improve the island, like fixing the roads, remodeling and improving our tourist sites, and hopefully bring in more investors that will actually help the island, all the while being transparent about it.”

—**Korey Tenorio, Chalan Piao**

“I expect a change in the hiring process with ‘equal opportunity’ for everyone, better tourist sites for a better tourism (to better our economy). To improve the Department of Public Safety (properly equip department and officers), better improve our hospital (with equipment and doctors so we won’t need to go on medical referral and can be treated here). I would also expect that we, as the public, would be made aware of how deep the CNMI is in debt at the moment, and how they’re going to fix it.”

—**Marvin Tebit, China Town**

“I am hopeful for the new administration, and I will definitely give them the benefit of the doubt. Not a lot of people are used to or comfortable with change, and I think, with this new leadership, it’ll give us the opportunity to see new ideas our island haven’t seen in a while. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for our community.”

—**Sarah Herman, Chalan Tun Antonio Apa**

“Entering a new year in the CNMI with a new administration may have some people on the edge of their seats, either hoping for promises to be fulfilled or expecting it to be broken. ...I for one haven’t been too interested in politics, although I like many others have an opinion on the matter. My thoughts on this incoming administration doesn’t have to do with the administration alone but it includes the community as well. We are hoping for a trustworthy and transparent government, and along with exercising our right to elect a candidate we believe will do that as well as represent the CNMI. In order to have a transparent and trustworthy government we must, in a sense, be just as much involved in addressing certain issues appropriately. Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing.”

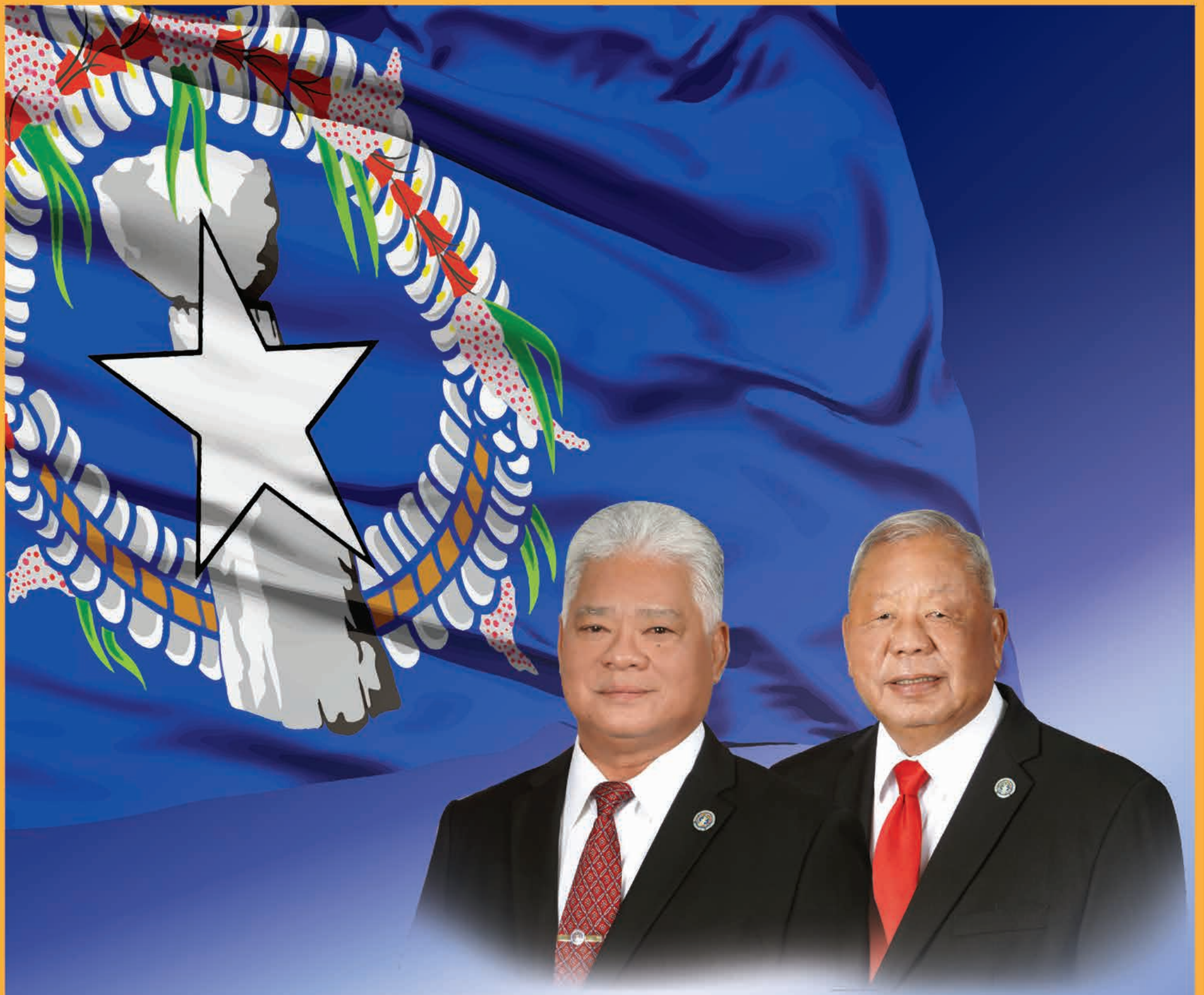
—**Romeo Herman, Chalan Tun Antonio Apa**

“I hope the new administration will be more open and transparent to the people, so we can be confident in the decisions they may or may not make. I hope they provide and equip our front-liners and first responders with necessary and more advanced resources to help our community and overall public safety, like a better healthcare system, as well as taking the necessary steps needed to decrease crime rates.”

—**Rosien Depich, San Antonio**

“For this upcoming administration, I’m hoping to see honesty and openness amidst their transactions. I’ll be praying for this administration to be wise in every decision throughout their term.”

—**Joannie Laniyo, Oleai**



**Congratulations**  
**Governor Arnold I. Palacios**  
**& Lt. Governor David M. Apatang**  
**on your inauguration.**



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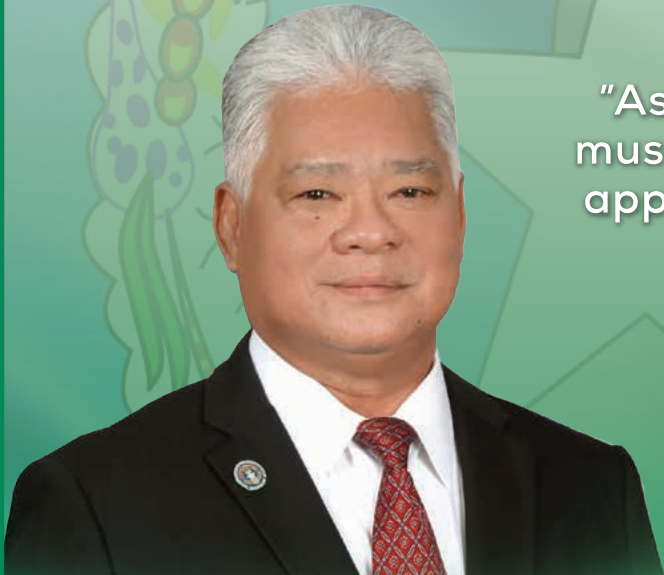
**Tan Siu Lin**  
**Foundation**

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*True leadership lies in guiding others to success.  
In ensuring that everyone is performing at their best,  
doing the work they are pledged to do and doing it well.*  
—Bill Owens

# Congratulations

Governor-Elect Arnold I. Palacios & Lt. Governor-Elect David M. Apatang  
on your inauguration.



"As we express our gratitude we  
must never forget that the highest  
appreciation is not to utter words  
but to live by them"  
-John F. Kennedy



FROM THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF



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# Congratulations

to all the newly elected officials of our beloved Commonwealth.  
May your time in office be blessed with many opportunities  
to better the lives of our people all the more.



From the staff and management of





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*Congratulations  
and our best wishes*

go to all our elected officials as they take today the reins  
of the Commonwealth's ship of state.

May the spirit of One Marianas shine bright  
as we head into the future!



Governor-Elect Arnold I. Palacios & Lt. Governor-Elect David M. Apatang



From the management and staff of

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"Good leaders don't tell people what to do,  
they give teams capability and inspiration."  
~ Jeffrey R. Immelt

*Congratulations!*

to all our newly elected officials of the CNMI!



Governor-Elect Arnold I. Palacios Lt. Governor-Elect David M. Apatang





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"THE PRICE OF GREATNESS IS RESPONSIBILITY."  
- WINSTON CHURCHILL



GOVERNOR-ELECT ARNOLD I. PALACIOS LT. GOVERNOR-ELECT DAVID M. APATANG




From the management and staff of


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MARK RABAGO

Fujiare Air Conditioner general manager Danny Sis poses with two of his staff.

## FUJIAIRE

From Page 16

turned out to be Fujiare Air Conditioner.

"It took me five years to decide on bringing it here. It's a Malaysia-based air-conditioning company that was developed with the help of Japanese technology. So it has quality materials, service, and parts. What's more, it offers a five-year warranty. But units need to be serviced every six months with some minimal service fee," he said.

Siu said since opening last month, a lot of people have been dropping by and inquiring about their units.

"Many people are interested and have come to our

showroom. They talk with me and our sales associates and at the same time get free coffee," he said.

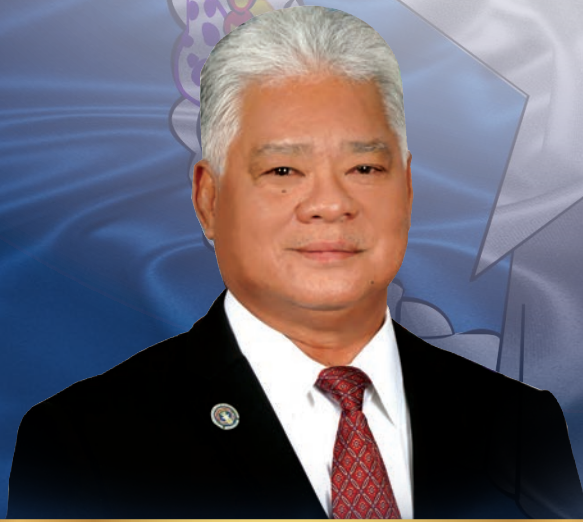
Aside from the usual AC-DC air-conditioning units, Fujiare Air Conditioner has also brought in several solar units, which while more expensive will save on power in the long run.

For the month of January, Siu is also having an introductory promotion by slashing \$100 of the sticker prices per unit.

Fujiare Air Conditioner is open from 9am to 6pm every-day except Sunday. For more information, call (670) 235-3288 or (670) 838-3288. You can also email them at [fujiair-pacific@gmail.com](mailto:fujiair-pacific@gmail.com) or go to their Facebook page.

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~ John C. Maxwell



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# Nation

## McCarthy is new House speaker

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Kevin McCarthy was elected House speaker on a historic post-midnight 15th ballot early Saturday, overcoming holdouts from his own ranks and floor tensions that boiled over after a chaotic week that tested the new GOP majority’s ability to govern.

“My father always told me, it’s not how you start, it’s how you finish,” McCarthy told cheering fellow Republicans.

Eager to confront President Joe Biden and the Democrats, he promised subpoenas and investigations. “Now the hard work begins,” the California Republican declared. He credited former President Donald Trump for standing with him and for making late calls “helping get those final votes.”

Republicans roared in celebration when his victory was announced, chanting “USA! USA!”

Finally elected, McCarthy took the oath of office, and the House was finally able to swear in newly elected lawmakers who had been waiting all week



McCarthy

for the chamber to formally open and the 2023-24 session to begin.

After four days of grueling ballots, McCarthy flipped more than a dozen conservative holdouts to become supporters, including the chairman of the chamber’s Freedom Caucus.

He fell one vote short on the 14th ballot, and the chamber became raucous, unruly.

McCarthy strode to the back of the chamber to confront Republican Matt Gaetz, sitting with Lauren Boebert and other holdouts. Fingers were pointed, words exchanged and violence apparently just averted.

At one point, Republican Mike Rogers of Alabama, shouting, approached Gaetz before another Republican, Richard Hudson of North Carolina, physically pulled him back.

“Stay civil!” someone shouted.

Order restored, the Republicans fell in line to give McCarthy the post he had fought so hard to gain, House speaker, second in the line of succession to the presidency.



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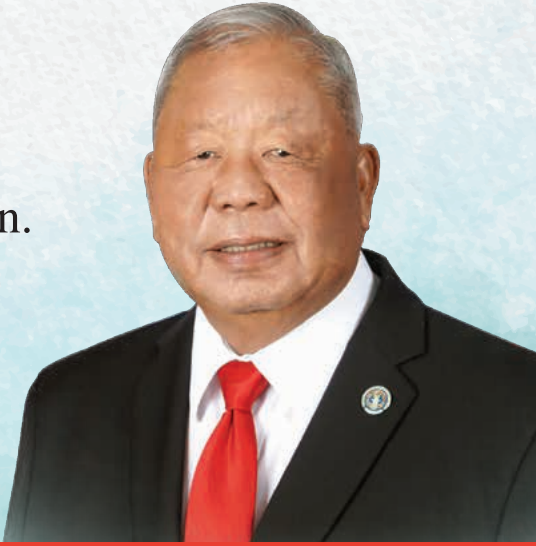
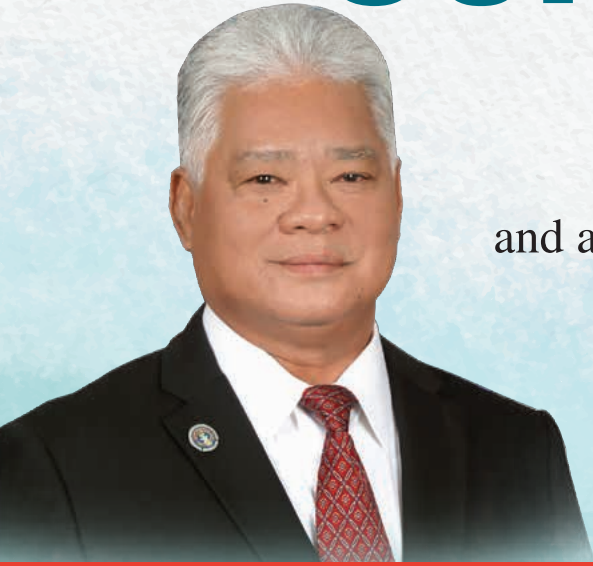
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Leadership should be focused on extending the ladder of opportunity for everyone.” — Justin Trudeau

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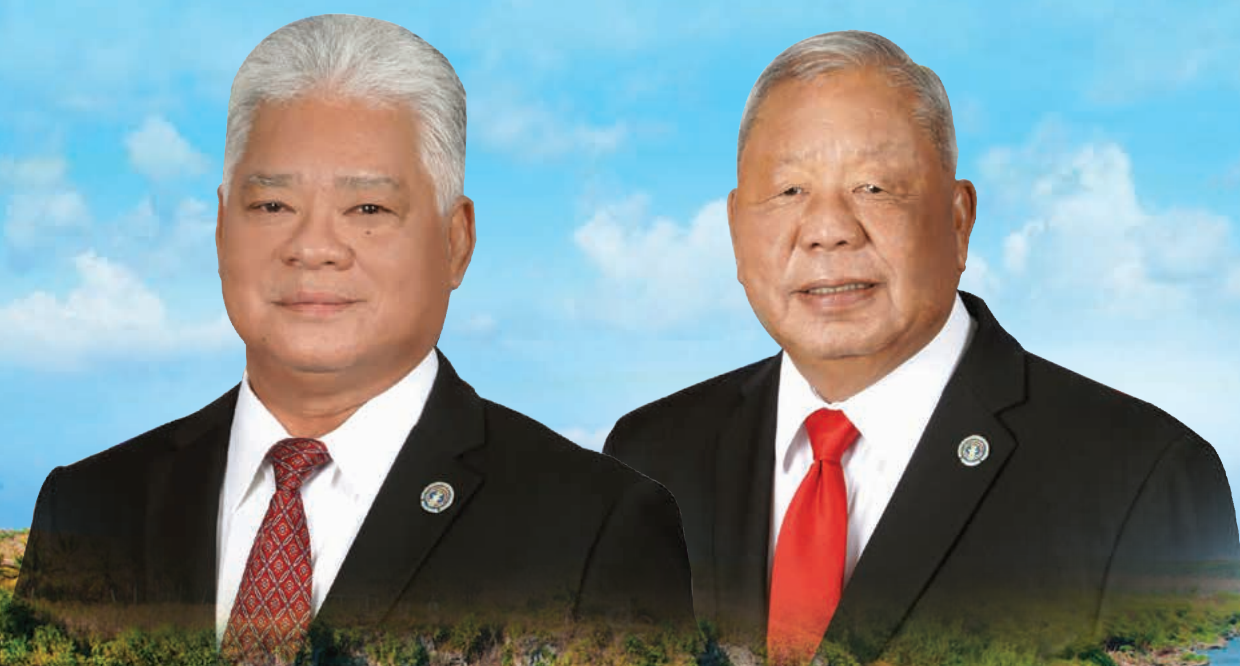
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strength, and conviction to enable you  
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# On the eve of Biden's border visit, migrants fear new rules

**EL PASO, Texas (AP)**—Several hundred people marched through the streets of El Paso Saturday afternoon, and when they arrived at a group of migrants huddling outside a church, they sang to them “no estan solos” — “you are not alone.”

Around 300 migrants have taken refuge on sidewalks outside Sacred Heart Church, some of them afraid to seek more formal shelters, advocates say, amid new restrictions meant to crack down on illegal border crossings.

This is the scene that will greet President Joe Biden on his first, politically thorny visit to the southern border Sunday.

The president announced last week that Cubans, Nicaraguans, Haitians and Venezuelans will be expelled to Mexico if they enter the U.S. illegally — an expansion of a pandemic-era immigration policy called Title 42. The new rules will also include offering humanitarian parole for up to 30,000 people a month from those four countries if they apply online and find a financial sponsor.

Biden is scheduled to arrive in El Paso Sunday afternoon

before traveling on to Mexico City to meet with North American leaders on Monday and Tuesday.

Dylan Corbett, who runs the nonprofit Hope Border Institute, said the city is experiencing an increasing “climate of fear.”

He said immigration enforcement agencies have already started ratcheting up deportations to Mexico, and he senses a rising level of tension and confusion.

The president's new policy expands on an existing effort to stop Venezuelans attempting to enter the U.S., which began in October.

Corbett said many Venezuelans have since been left in limbo, putting a strain on local resources. He said expanding those policies to other migrants will only worsen the circumstances for them on the ground.

“It's a very difficult situation because they can't go forward and they can't go back,” he said. People who aren't processed can't leave El Paso because of U.S. law enforcement checkpoints; most have traveled thousands of miles from their homelands and refuse to give up and turn around.

“There will be people in need of protection who will be left behind,” Corbett said.

The new restrictions represent a major change to immigration rules that will stand even if the U.S. Supreme Court ends a Trump-era public health law that allows U.S. authorities to turn away asylum-seekers.

El Paso has swiftly become the busiest of the Border Patrol's nine sectors along the U.S. border with Mexico, occupying the top slots in October and November. Large numbers of Venezuelans began showing up in September, drawn to the relative ease of crossing, robust shelter networks and bus service on both sides of the border, and a major airport to destinations across the United States.

Venezuelans ceased to be a major presence almost overnight after Mexico, under Title 42 authority, agreed on Oct. 12 to accept those who crossed the border illegally into the United States. Nicaraguans have since filled that void. Title 42 restrictions have been applied 2.5 million times to deny migrants a right to seek asylum under U.S. and international law on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Wishing our newly elected officials  
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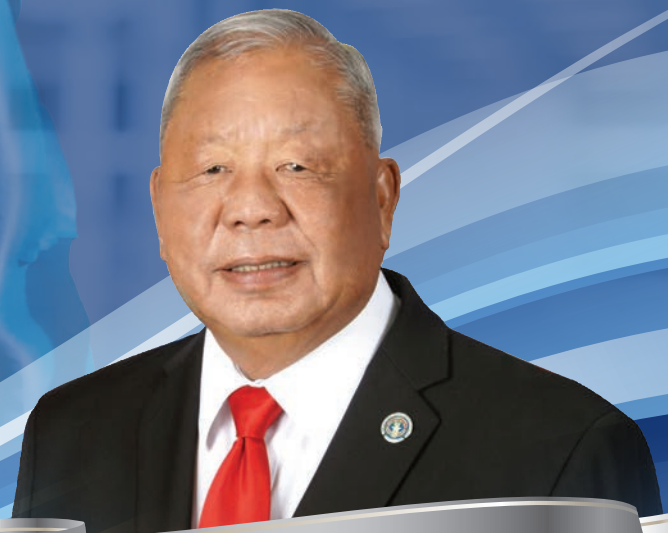
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# Asia

## Travelers rush to take advantage of China reopening

**BEIJING (AP)**—After two years of separation from his wife in mainland China, Hong Kong resident Cheung Seng-bun made sure he was among the first to cross the border following the reopening of crossing points Sunday.

The ability of residents of the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city to cross over is one of the most visible signs of China's easing of border restrictions, with travelers arriving from abroad also no longer required to undergo quarantine.

"I'm hurrying to get back to her," Cheung, lugging a heavy suitcase, told The Associated Press as he prepared to cross at Lok Ma Chau station.

Travelers crossing between Hong Kong and mainland China, however, are still required to show a negative COVID-19 test taken within the last 48 hours — a measure China has protested when imposed by other countries.

Hong Kong has been hard-hit by the virus, and its land and sea border checkpoints with the mainland have been largely closed for almost three years. Despite the risk of new infections, the reopening that

will allow tens of thousands of people who have made prior online bookings to cross each day is expected to provide a much-needed boost to Hong Kong's tourism and retail sectors.

On a visit to the station Sunday morning, Hong Kong's Chief Executive John Lee said the sides would continue to expand the number of crossing points from the current seven to the full 14.

"The goal is to get back as quickly as possible to the pre-epidemic normal life," Lee told reporters. "We want to get cooperation between the two sides back on track."

Communist Party newspaper Global Times quoted Tan Luming, a port official in Shenzhen on the border with Hong Kong, saying about 200 passengers were expected to take the ferry to Hong Kong, while another 700 were due to travel in the other direction, on the first day of reopening. Tan said a steady increase in passenger numbers is expected over coming days.

"I stayed up all night and got up at 4:00 a.m. as I'm so excited to return to the mainland to see my 80-year-old mother," a

Hong Kong woman identified only by her surname, Cheung, said on arrival at Shenzhen,

where she was presented with "roses and health kits," the paper said.

Limited ferry service had also been restored from China's Fujian province to the

Taiwanese-controlled island of Kinmen just off the Chinese coast.



### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Taiwan's Tsai visits base as China protests US ship passage

**CHIAYI, Taiwan (AP)**—Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen visited a military base Friday to observe drills while rival China protested the passage of a U.S. Navy destroyer through the Taiwan Strait, as tensions between the sides showed no sign of abating in the new year.

Beijing claims self-governing Taiwan as Chinese territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary, and regularly protests the passage of U.S. and other foreign warships through the Taiwan Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways.

Tsai's visit to the base in the central county of Chiayi comes as Taiwan is seeking to boost its defenses against the rising threat from China. That includes expanding the domestic shipbuilding and arms industry, buying more defensive weaponry from the U.S. and

extending the national service requirement for all men from four months to a full year beginning in 2024.

#### Philippine military chief replaced by retiring general

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Saturday cut short the term of the military chief of staff he appointed five months ago and replaced him with a retiring general without explaining the surprise move.

Marcos's office announced the replacement of Lt. Gen. Bartolome Bacarro, who had received the highest military award for combat bravery. A statement late Friday that did not specify any reason for the change in military leadership. Bacarro's three-year term was supposed to end in August 2025.

The appointment of military chiefs is a sensitive issue. The military has a history of res-

tiveness, failed coup attempts, corruption scandals and has faced accusations of human rights violations. Efforts have been made for years to instill professionalism in the military and insulate it from the country's traditionally chaotic and corruption-tainted politics.

Lt. Gen. Andres Centino, the military chief of staff who Bacarro replaced in August last year, was installed by Marcos to the top post of the 144,000-strong armed forces. Centino, who was due to retire next month, was chosen over a dozen senior generals and will have a fresh three-year term.

#### China's Ant Group says founder Jack Ma will give up control

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—E-commerce billionaire Jack Ma will give up control of Ant Group, the leading Chinese financial technology provider he founded.

In a statement posted Friday, Ant Group said that after an

ownership restructuring, "no shareholder, alone or with other parties" will have "control over Ant Group." The company is an affiliate of e-commerce giant Alibaba, which Ma also founded.

The move follows other efforts over the years by the Chinese government to rein in Ma and the country's tech sector more broadly. Two years ago, the once high-profile Ma largely disappeared from view for 2 1/2 months after criticizing China's regulators.

The government at the same time also forced Ant Group to call off a highly-anticipated IPO that would have raised over \$3 billion, just days before it was to launch.

Yet Ma's surrender of control comes after other signs the government was easing up on Chinese online firms. Late last year Beijing signaled at an economic work conference that it would support technology firms to boost economic growth and create more jobs.

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# World

## Ukraine hails US military aid as cease-fire said to falter

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—Ukraine's president praised the United States for including tank-killing armored vehicles in its latest multibillion-dollar package of military aid, saying they are "exactly what is needed" for Ukrainian troops locked in combat against Russian forces, even as both sides celebrated Orthodox Christmas on Saturday.

The White House announcement Friday of \$3.75 billion in weapons and other aid for Ukraine and its European backers came as Moscow said its troops are observing a short Orthodox Christmas cease-fire.

Ukrainian officials denounced the unilateral 36-hour pause as a ploy and said it appeared to have been ignored by some of Moscow's forces pressing ahead with the nearly 11-month invasion. Ukrainian officials reported Russian shelling attacks in the Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions on Saturday.



A cupola lies on the ground in front of the Orthodox Church which was destroyed by Russian forces in the recently retaken village of Bogorodychne, Ukraine, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2022. AP

Russia's Defense Ministry insisted Saturday that its forces along the 1,100-kilometer (684-mile) front line were observing the Kremlin-ordered truce, but returned

fire when attacked.

The latest package of U.S. military assistance was the biggest to date for Ukraine. For the first time, it included 50 Bradley armored vehicles

and 500 of the anti-tank missiles they can fire. Germany also announced it would supply around 40 Marder armored personnel carriers and France promised wheeled AMX-10 RC tank destroyers.

Together, this week's pledges were powerful signals that Ukraine can count on continued long-term Western aid against Russian President Vladimir Putin's drive to dismember the country.

In his nightly televised address on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the U.S. aid package as

"very powerful."

"For the first time, we will get Bradley armored vehicles — this is exactly what is needed. New guns and rounds, including high-precision ones, new rockets, new drones. It is timely and strong," he said.

He thanked U.S. President Joe Biden, U.S. lawmakers and "all the Americans who appreciate freedom, and who know that freedom is worth protecting."

Celebrated by both Ukrainians and Russians, the Orthodox Christmas holiday also underscored the enmity that Russia's invasion is precipitating between them.

In a revered cathedral in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, the Christmas service Saturday was delivered in the Ukrainian language — instead of Russian — for the first time in decades, highlighting how Ukraine is seeking to jettison Moscow's remaining influences over religious, cultural and economic life in the country.

Ukraine's government on Thursday took over administration of the Kyiv-Pechersk monastery's Dormition Cathedral from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which had been loyal to the Russian Orthodox Church, and allowed the Ukrainian church to use it for the Christmas service.

The monastery complex is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The cathedral was built about 1,000 years ago, then reconstructed in the 1990s after being ruined in World War II.

"It's an amazing moment," said Alex Fesiak, among hundreds of worshippers who attended. "Previously this place — on Ukrainian territory, within Kyiv — has been linked to Moscow. Now we feel this is ours, this is Ukrainian. This is part of the Ukrainian nation."

The Putin-ordered Christmas cease-fire that started Friday was first proposed by the Russian Orthodox Church's Kremlin-aligned head, Patriarch Kirill. The Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar and celebrates Christmas on Jan. 7. Putin's order said a cease-fire would allow worshippers in combat zones to attend Christmas services.

But Ukrainian officials didn't commit to following it and dismissed the move as a Russian ploy to buy time for its struggling invasion forces to regroup. Ukrainian and Western officials portrayed the announcement as a Russian attempt to grab the moral high ground and possibly snatch battlefield initiative and momentum from Ukrainian forces amid their counteroffensive of recent months.

The pause was due to end Saturday night — at midnight Moscow time, which is 11 p.m. in Kyiv.

## Iran executes 2 more men detained amid nationwide protests

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Iran said it executed two men Saturday convicted of allegedly killing a paramilitary volunteer during a demonstration, the latest executions aimed at halting the nationwide protests now challenging the country's theocracy.

Iran's judiciary identified those executed as Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Mohammad Hosseini, making it four men known to have been executed since the demonstrations began in September over the death of Mahsa Amini. All have faced internationally criticized, rapid, closed-door trials.

The judiciary's Mizan news agency said the men had been convicted of killing Ruhollah Ajamian, a member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's volunteer Basij force, in the city of Karaj outside of Tehran on Nov. 3. The Basij have deployed in major cities, attacking and detaining protesters, who in many cases have fought back.

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said on Twitter that Karami and Hosseini were "more than just two names."

"(They were) hanged by the regime in Iran because they didn't want to submit to its brutal and inhuman actions. Two further terrible fates that encourage us to increase the pressure on Tehran through the EU," she wrote.

Heavily edited footage aired on state television showed

Karami speaking before a Revolutionary Court about the attack, which also showed a reenactment of the attack, according to prosecutors' claims. Iran's Revolutionary Courts handed down the two other death sentences already carried out.

The tribunals don't allow those on trial to pick their own lawyers or even see the evidence against them. Amnesty International has said the trials "bore no resemblance to a meaningful judicial proceeding."

State TV also aired footage of Karami and Hosseini talking about the attack, though the broadcaster for years has aired what activists describe as coerced confessions.

The men were convicted of the killing, as well as "corruption on Earth," a Quranic term and charge that has been levied against others in the decades since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and carries the death penalty.

Activists say at least 16 people have been sentenced to death in closed-door hearings over charges linked to the protests. Death sentences in Iran are typically carried out by hanging.

At least 517 protesters have been killed and over 19,200 people have been arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that has closely monitored the unrest. Iranian authorities have not provided an official count of those killed or detained.

The protests began in mid-

September, when 22-year-old Amini died after being arrested by Iran's morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Women have played a leading role in the protests, with many publicly stripping off the compulsory Islamic headscarf, known as the hijab.

**WORLD BRIEFS**  
**UN rights chief calls for probe into Burkina Faso killings**  
**BERLIN** (AP)—The head of the United Nations human rights office called Saturday for a prompt, transparent investigation into the deaths of at least 28 people whose bodies were found in northwest Burkina Faso last month.

Volker Türk, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said it was encouraging that authorities had announced an investigation into the incident in Nouna town, a predominately ethnic Fulani and Muslim community.

"I call on them to ensure it is prompt, thorough, impartial and transparent and to hold all those responsible to account regardless of position or rank," he said in a statement.

"The victims and their loved ones are owed no less," he added.

Local human rights groups allege that volunteer militias supporting Burkina Faso's army killed dozens of Fulani civilians, including children. Fulani people have been increasingly targeted by the

military and local defense militias because they are suspected of supporting the West African country's Islamic extremist rebels who have been inflicting violence on the country for years.

**Thousands of Israelis protest new government's policies**  
**TEL AVIV, Israel** (AP)—Thousands of Israelis took to the streets Saturday evening to protest plans by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government that opponents say threaten democracy and freedoms.

The protesters gathered in the central city of Tel Aviv days after the most right-wing and religiously conservative government in the country's 74-year history was sworn in.

"The settler government is against me," read one placard. Another banner read, "Housing, Livelihood, Hope." Some protesters carried rainbow flags.

The protest was led by left-wing and Arab members of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset. They contend that

proposed plans by the new Cabinet will hinder judicial system and widen societal gaps.

The left-wing protesters slammed Justice Minister Yariv Levin, who on Wednesday unveiled the government's long-promised overhaul of the judicial system that aims to weaken the country's Supreme Court.

Critics accused the government of declaring war on the legal system, saying the plan will upend Israel's system of checks and balances and undermine its democratic institutions by giving absolute power to the new governing coalition.

**Kurds from around Europe demonstrate over killings in Paris**

**PARIS** (AP)—Thousands of Kurds from around France and Europe marched through Paris on Saturday to show their anger over the unresolved killing of three Kurdish female activists in the French capital 10 years ago.

The marchers are also mourning three people killed

outside a Kurdish cultural center in Paris two weeks ago in what prosecutors called a racist attack.

Kurdish activists from Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium arrived in buses, escorted by police, and joined fellow Kurds from France in a peaceful march through northeast Paris. The demonstration was timed to mark the 10th anniversary of the killings of Sakine Cansiz, Fidan Dogan and Leyla Saylemez on Jan. 9, 2013.

Cansiz was a founder of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which Turkey, the United States and the European Union consider a terrorist group.

Kurdish activists suspect the Turkish intelligence service was involved in the killing. The suspected attacker, a Turkish citizen, died in French custody before the case reached trial. Turkish officials suggested at the time that the killings may have been part of an internal feud among Kurdish activists or an attempt to derail peace talks.

# Health & Wellness

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## What is cardiac arrest? A Mayo Clinic heart expert explains

By DEB BALZER  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Cardiac arrest, or sudden cardiac arrest as it is more formally known, is a medical emergency. It happens when an event, usually an electrical disturbance, quickly and unexpectedly causes your heart to stop working. It's not the same as a heart attack and is called sudden because it seems to happen without warning.

Dr. Christopher DeSimone, a Mayo cardiac electrophysiologist specializing in abnormal cardiac rhythm, answers questions about cardiac arrest, the differences between cardiac arrest and heart attack, and why time is critical when treating someone with cardiac arrest.

### QUESTION: What happens during cardiac arrest?

Cardiac arrest is when the heart cannot fulfill its duties and pump blood, especially oxygenated blood, around the body to get to critical areas, such as the brain. Now, when there's an arrest, there are two things we go over. One could be the heart stops electrically, so the heart is not going to pump. The other one is the heart goes into an abnormal or lethal rhythm, which we call ventricular fibrillation. That's a more chaotic rhythm of the heart. So electrically this heart's in a bad rhythm, and the

ventricles are quivering and not pumping out. Ultimately, both things put you into cardiac arrest, sudden cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac death. The heart cannot fulfill its duties of pumping blood to the lungs and the rest of the body, so that all the nutrients and oxygen can get to the tissues of the heart, brain or what have you.

### QUESTION: Why is immediate care, like CPR and AED, so critical?

Survival is possible with immediate, appropriate medical care. Call 911, if able, first.

Once you know that someone's suffered or suspect that they've suffered a cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac arrest, it is important to restore the rhythm as fast as you can.

A cardiac arrest could happen wherever we are in life—in the malls, schools and at work. And if someone passes out, you want to make sure that they're breathing, their heart has a pulse and their heart is pumping. If their heart's not pumping, then what people need to do is emergent CPR.

And every time we walk by things in the hallway, whatever buildings we're in, there are all these things called AED, or automated external defibrillators. That's one of those things that people see on TV where they're shocking the patient back into a normal rhythm.



MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Cardiac arrest, or sudden cardiac arrest as it is more formally known, is a medical emergency.

Because if that device notes that the patient does not have a good rhythm and they're in this ventricular fibrillation, the machine will tell you to shock the heart, and the machine will shock. You're trying to electrically restart the heart so that it goes back into its normal rhythm, and you could have normal pumping function.

### QUESTION: Why is time so crucial for dealing with cardiac arrest?

Time is critical because the heart's not pumping blood to the rest of the body—not to the lungs, not to the brain. The oxygen is not getting to the tissues as it usually does when the heart's pumping normally. Everyone knows that time is heart muscle, time is myocardium. When someone's having a heart attack, think about the whole body having a heart attack. The brain is not getting blood, the liver is not getting blood, and the kidney is not getting blood.

The heart itself isn't getting oxygenated blood, so all those tissues could die off.

### QUESTION: What is the typical treatment for a person having cardiac arrest?

As soon as you can establish a rhythm or if you're still doing CPR and have given medications and doing advanced cardiac life support, part of that is to put a tube down the patient's throat, intubation, and sedate them so that they're under anesthesia.

Sometimes they'll even cool the patient. The patient will not be breathing on their own. A machine will be breathing for the patient. And sometimes what we do is we also cool the patient down.

We're trying to let the tissues that might not have gotten oxygen for minutes—hopefully not hours—recuperate some of their function and make the body spend the least energy as we can. It's common for that to happen so that we

can stabilize the patient.

### QUESTION: What is the difference between cardiac arrest and heart attack?

When someone has a heart attack, it's more of a plumbing problem. The major arteries going to the heart get plugged up with a clot. When that happens, there's a blockage in the plumbing, and then the heart at that area might get weak because it can't pump because it doesn't get blood flow to itself. And things could happen—like the patient goes into an electrical problem, like sudden cardiac arrest. The plumbing leads to an electrical problem, that's common.

But the heart attack is blocking the plumbing, so blood does not get to the heart. When someone has a sudden cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac death, it could be a manifestation of a heart attack. But sudden cardiac arrest doesn't mean you necessarily need to have heart blockages.

## ON NUTRITION

## Is hydrogenated fat in peanut butter safe to eat?

By BARBARA INTERMILL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I continue to be amazed at the pace at which nutrition science continues to evolve—and get more complicated. Along with that thought comes this question from David P in Tucson, Arizona:

"Dear Barbara, is hydrogenated peanut butter as healthy as the nonhydrogenated kind? Hydrogenated peanut butter only adds a half-gram of saturated fat to peanut butter's content, so it would seem OK to eat, but what do you think?"

I think you asked a very good question, David. And it's one that requires some background. Bear with me.

Ever wonder why olive or other vegetable oils in your cabinet get rancid quicker over time than say, butter or coconut oil? Fats that are more

solid at room temperature are more stable; they don't disintegrate as quickly. This is largely due to their higher content of saturated fat.

That's what the process of hydrogenation does. It "saturates" a liquid oil with hydrogen to make it more solid and thus more shelf stable.

There is a big difference, however, between fats that are fully versus partially hydrogenated. Partially hydrogenated fats that used to reside in some margarines and snack foods are no longer allowed in our food supply because they are the main source of artificial trans fat.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, trans fats raise the level of LDL ("bad") cholesterol in the blood. An elevated LDL level in the blood increases your risk of developing heart

disease, the leading cause of death in men and women in the U.S.

Removing partially hydrogenated oils from processed foods could prevent thousands of heart attacks and deaths each year, says the FDA. And that's what they did in 2018.

On the other hand, hydrogenated oils (not partially hydrogenated) are still allowed in some food products (including peanut butter) to maintain freshness. Although these products do not contain trans fats (check the label), the process of hydrogenation produces more saturated fat, which we are called to limit in our diets.

So back to your question, David. The healthiest peanut butter is one with zero trans fat and a low amount of saturated fat, hydrogenated or not.

Not confused enough yet?

I'm looking at a jar of "natural" peanut butter that contains no hydrogenated oil—just peanuts, sugar, palm oil and salt. And it has 3.5 grams of saturated fat per serving. Where did that come from? While peanuts contain mostly good monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats, they do contain a small amount of saturated fat. And palm oil is naturally high in saturated fat.

I'd say that half-gram of saturated fat in your peanut butter stabilized with hydrogenated oil is not much to worry about.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of *Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating*. Email her at [barbara@quinessential-nutrition.com](mailto:barbara@quinessential-nutrition.com).

## Healthy Living

## Want healthy gums?

*Oleanolic acid, a chemical found in raisins, is particularly effective in killing oral bacteria.*

### Eat raisins

- **Oleanolic acid** prevents the growth of two kinds of bacteria that can cause gum disease
- **It also prevents** bacteria from adhering to tooth surface and creating dental plaque



Source: University of Illinois, TNS Photo Service

## MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

## Signs that stress is becoming toxic

By JASON HOWLAND  
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Stress is a normal physical and psychological response to the everyday demands of life. Small amounts of stress can motivate you to face daily challenges. But when stress becomes too much to manage, it can be unhealthy.

Everyone experiences stressful times, but can you tell when stress is becoming toxic?

"I think some key signs are when we're not able to do our important life activities, like if we're not able to remember our appointments or work, procrastinating on important things like paying our bills or buying groceries, or attending

to our family matters," says Dr. Beth Rush, a Mayo Clinic neuropsychologist.

When stress reaches a point where a person no longer can function in a meaningful way, it might be a sign of something more severe, says Dr. Rush. And you should see a health care provider.

"Something serious may

be going on, like anxiety or depression, which needs to be treated and evaluated."

She says stress can be unpredictable, and it's important to take care of yourself.

"Sleep, eat well, make sure you're exercising," says Dr. Rush. "Look for signs of stress in yourself. Manage your emotions. Give yourself a timeout if you need to from activity or stimulation, or interaction."

# Life & Style

## Prince Harry's book exposes grief, war, drugs, family rifts

**LONDON** (AP)—Bereaved boy, troubled teen, wartime soldier, unhappy royal—many facets of Prince Harry are revealed in his explosive memoir, often in eyebrow-raising detail.

From accounts of cocaine use and losing his virginity to raw family rifts, "Spare" exposes deeply personal details about Harry and the wider royal family.

The Associated Press purchased a copy of the Spanish-language edition of the book ahead of its publication around the world on Tuesday. Its revelations have electrified the British media—but have been met with silence from Buckingham Palace.

### BROTHER AND SON

The book opens with a quote from American writer William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Harry's story is dominated by his rivalry with elder brother Prince William and the death of the boys' mother, Princess Diana, in 1997. Harry, who was 12 at the time, has never forgiven

the media for Diana's death in a car crash while being pursued by photographers.

The loss of his mother haunts the book, which Harry dedicates to wife Meghan, children Archie and Lili "and, of course, my mother."

The opening chapter recounts how his father Prince Charles—now King Charles III—broke the news of his mother's accident, but didn't give his son a hug.

Harry reveals that years later he asked his driver to take him through the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris, site of the fatal crash, hoping in vain that it would help end a "decade of unrelenting pain. He also says he once consulted a woman who claimed to have 'powers' and to be able to pass on messages from Diana.

Harry adds that he and William both "begged" their father not to marry his long-term paramour Camilla Parker-Bowles, worried she would become a "wicked stepmother."

Harry also is tormented by his status as royal "spare" be-



AP  
Britain's Prince Harry, 18, punches the air as he leaves Eton College on his last day at the top public school where he has been a pupil for five years, in Windsor, England, on June 12, 2003.

hind William, who is heir to the British throne. Harry recounts a longstanding sibling rivalry that worsened after Harry began a relationship with American actress Meghan Markle, whom he married in 2018.

He says that during an argument in 2019, William called

Meghan "difficult" and "rude," then grabbed him by the collar and knocked him down. Harry suffered cuts and bruises from landing on a dog bowl.

Harry says Charles implored the brothers to make up, saying after the funeral of Prince Philip in 2021: "Please, boys. Don't

make my final years a misery."

Neither Buckingham Palace, which represents King Charles III, nor William's Kensington Palace office has commented on any of the allegations.

### WILD TEENAGE YEARS

The memoir suggests the media's party-boy image of Harry during his teen and young adult years was well-deserved.

Harry describes how he lost his virginity at 17—in a field behind a pub to an older woman who loved horses and treated the teenage prince like a "young stallion." It was, he says, a "humiliating episode."

He also says he took cocaine several times starting at the same age, in order "to feel. To be different." He also acknowledges using cannabis and magic mushrooms—which made him hallucinate that a toilet was talking to him.

### ARMY REVELATIONS

Harry spent a decade in the British Army, serving twice in Afghanistan. He says that on his second tour, as an Apache helicopter co-pilot and gunner in 2012-2013, he killed 25 Taliban militants. Harry says he felt neither satisfaction nor shame about his actions, and in the heat of battle regarded enemy combatants as pieces being removed from a chessboard, "Baddies eliminated before they could kill Goodies."

Veterans criticized the comments and said they could increase the security risk for Harry. Retired Col. Richard Kemp said it was "an error of judgment," and regarding enemy fighters as chess pieces is "not the way the British Army trains people."

"I think that sort of comment that doesn't reflect reality is misleading and potentially valuable to those people who wish the British forces and British government harm," he told the BBC.

The Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi called the Western invasion of Afghanistan "odious" and said Harry's comments "are a microcosm of the trauma experienced by Afghans at the hands of occupation forces who murdered innocents without any accountability."

### PERSONAL JOURNEY

Harry credits Meghan with changing the way he sees the world and himself. He says he was "wrapped in privilege" and had no understanding of unconscious bias before he met her.

The young prince notoriously wore a Nazi uniform to a costume party in 2005, and claims in the book that William and his now-wife Kate encouraged the choice of outfit and "howled" with laughter when they saw it. He was recorded using a racist term about a fellow soldier of Pakistani descent in 2006, but says he did not know the word was a slur.

Meghan and Harry cited the U.K. media's treatment of the biracial American actress as one of the main reasons for their decision to quit royal duties and move to the U.S. in 2020.

The book gives no sign that royal family relations will be repaired soon. Harry told ITV in an interview to promote the book that he wants reconciliation, but that there must be "accountability" first.

## Grammy winner accused of assault, kidnapping fatally shot

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—A Grammy-winning sound engineer accused of kidnapping and threatening his wife and stepdaughter at gunpoint in Tennessee was fatally shot by police, authorities said.

A Metro Nashville Police officer killed Mark Capps, 54, during an encounter Thursday at the man's home in the Hermitage neighborhood, agency spokesman Don Aaron said. Officers had gone to the home to arrest Capps on warrants charging him with two counts each of aggravated assault and aggra-

vated kidnapping, Aaron said.

His 60-year-old wife and 23-year-old stepdaughter told police he had held them in the home at gunpoint early Thursday, police said.

"The victims said that Capps awakened them at 3 a.m., gathered them in the living room at gunpoint and refused to allow them to leave," Aaron said. They told police he repeatedly threatened to kill them if they tried to call anyone, but they were able to escape when he fell asleep. They went to police and arrest warrants were issued in

the afternoon, Aaron said.

When three SWAT officers went to the home arrest Capps, he opened the front door armed with a pistol and Officer Kendall Coon yelled at him to show his hands, Aaron said.

"Officer Coon deemed that Capps' movements posed an immediate, imminent threat and fired," Aaron said. Capps died at the scene.

Video of the shooting appears to show the door of the home opening and an officer can be heard yelling "Show me your hands" before firing sec-

onds later.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation will investigate the shooting. The Nashville Police Department will conduct an administrative review of the tactics and interactions used to determine whether they meet departmental standards.

Capps' website says he is a multi-platinum Grammy award-winning Engineer/Mixer/Producer. He won four Grammys for his work on polka albums and his website lists several other albums on which he's done mixing and engineering work.

## Wife begins seeing husband more as parent than partner

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband is 38; I am 36. We have been together for 13 years, married for 11. We never wanted children, although we have some pets. My problem is, we've fallen into a parent-child relationship, where I'm starting to feel like the child. He enables me to the point that if I'm the least bit distressed (i.e., doing dishes and getting frustrated because there are a lot), he takes over what I'm doing. He even tucks me into bed and kisses me goodnight, turns off the light and closes the door. Because of our work schedules, we sleep at different times. I find this strange.

I have mentioned it to him before, and it hurt his feelings. I love him dearly, but seeing him as my "parent" is starting to make it hard for me to love him as my husband. I have asked him to go to therapy, but he is unwilling. I am very blunt when it comes to saying things, and it generally triggers arguments. How can I tell him all of this bothers me without starting a huge fight?

**ADULT WOMAN/WIFE IN MICHIGAN**

**DEAR ADULT:** It's interesting the way different people can view the same situation. From my perspective, you married a man who adores you and wants to help when he sees you are frustrated with something. Because you sleep separately, he comes into the bedroom to kiss you goodnight because he loves his wife. That this triggers a

negative reaction surprises me. Many women—including me—would be thrilled.

However, because his demonstrations of affection bother you, choose a time when you can have a calm discussion and explain to him how these gestures affect you. It also might be worth your while to schedule a session or two with a licensed psychotherapist to give you some insight about why you react so negatively toward your husband's loving gestures that you would write me about it.

■■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently made the acquaintance of a woman who just moved into our neighborhood. We are both new members of a local civic club. I asked if she would like to attend an upcoming event for the group and have breakfast afterward. It was a bad move on my part, because she now seems to think I am her best friend.

She sends me text messages throughout the day -- seven yesterday alone. She constantly asks me for rides to meetings and local events, often at the last minute. I'm sure she's lonely, but I am busy with a husband. I also volunteer for a nonprofit group and manage a short-term rental property. I don't want to hurt her feelings, but I don't have time for someone this needy. How do I tell her to back off?

**STRESSED IN RETIREMENT**

**DEAR STRESSED:** Convey that message directly—

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



but kindly—by explaining that you are busy with a husband, volunteering for a nonprofit and managing real estate and don't have time to maintain the kind of relationship she's seeking. Tell her you will reach out to her when you have an opening in your schedule. Then suggest she may meet more like-minded people and make more friends if she begins volunteering in the community, too.

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

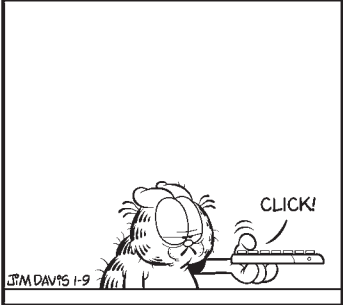
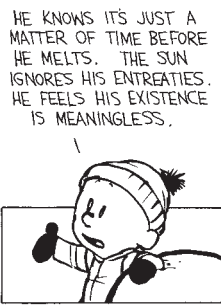
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

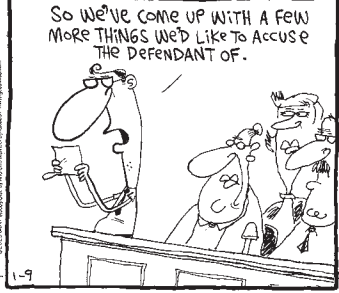
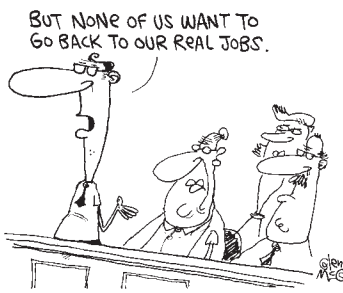
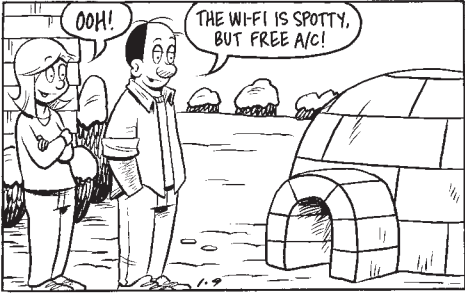


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Tampa Bay NFLer progress 9 Favorite 12 Rowboat need 13 "Treasure" singer Mars 14 Praise in verse 15 Muffin variety 17 Brooch 18 Documentary Burns 19 Barked sharply 21 Steak cut 24 Prof. Higgins, to Eliza 25 Oklahoma city 26 Dallas sch. 28 Painter's undercoat 31 Charged bits 33 Designer monogram

35 Leak out slowly 36 Exams for future attys. 38 Sushi choice 40 Oft-pierced body part 41 Siestas 43 Put on a clothes-line 45 "The Woman in Me" singer Twain 47 Snitch 48 Ages and ages 49 Muffin variety 54 Big bird

55 Painter's stand 56 Tic-tac-toe win 57 Bumped into 58 Stock unit 59 Triumphed

DOWN 1 Short do 2 "Friendly skies" co. 3 French vineyard 4 Monasteries 5 Fake ally 6 Sharing word 7 Ham — (deli order) 39 Apt 42 Abraham's wife 44 Hwy. 45 Appear 46 Abode 50 Red — beet 51 Squabble 52 Kanga's kid 53 Thither

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 12/27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nina Dobrev, 34; Kate Middleton, 41; Dave Matthews, 56; Jimmy Page, 79.

Happy Birthday: Don't hesitate to go after your dreams. A positive change at home will motivate you to follow through with your plans and adjust your schedule to meet your demands. An overview of your life and direction will enable you to update your look, qualifications and knowledge to ensure you reach your destination of choice. Embrace what life has to offer. Your numbers are 8, 15, 23, 27, 33, 39, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get swept up in someone's dilemma or plans. Focus on what brings you the highest return, and do your own thing. Personal improvements will lead to compliments and make you feel passionate about sharing something special with someone you love. \*\*\*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Speak up and make a difference in how a situation unfolds with someone who can't make up their mind. Offer alternatives, but don't leave without resolving issues that can spin out of control. Be the one to restore order and move forward. \*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Protect what's yours and take care of matters concerning a friend, relative or lover. Taking a hands-on approach to solving problems and protecting your objective will pay off and open doors that were closed in the past. Make your intentions crystal clear. \*\*\*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore possibilities. Sign up for a course that will enhance your financial options and connect you to people who share your aspirations. Discuss partnerships, and exercise your rights regarding contracts and financial expectations. Physical activity will ease stress and encourage opportunity. \*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An unexpected change will influence your emotional well-being and leave you questioning what to do next. Be open to suggestions and ready to add more skills and qualifications to your resume. What unfolds will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An educational pursuit will give you a different perspective on life and how to use your skills purposefully. How you reach out to help others will set the stage for unique opportunities. Be proactive and share your thoughts. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Reach out to individuals who make you think and push you to be and do your best; an opportunity will develop. Set up a meeting to discuss the possibilities or consider a move to a location that offers greater opportunity. \*\*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Manage your money and look for investments that add to your security. Don't take on someone's responsibilities or jeopardize your health or emotional well-being. Uncertainty regarding a partnership will end up being advantageous and allow you to set beneficial boundaries. \*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Limit spending and premature commitments. Emotional stress will cause fatigue and leave you open to illness or injury. Be frank about how you feel and what you plan to do next. Don't share sensitive information. Romance and physical improvement are favored. \*\*\*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emphasize what's important to you. Keeping fit and actively participating in events that promote networking and expanding your interests and friendships will be enlightening and entertaining. Let your intelligence lead the way. Allow your target to be fulfilling your dreams, hopes and wishes. \*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep busy, concentrate on your to-do list and make your surroundings comfortable and convenient. Assess emotional situations and sensitive issues that can lead to mistakes. Keep your thoughts and intentions to yourself until you are ready to execute a flawless launch. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be true to yourself and honest with others. Set a spending limit and earn your living doing something you enjoy. By demonstrating what you have to offer, you'll impress someone in a position to market your skills. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You are sage, engaging and fussy. You are skilled and economical.

☿: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☿☿☿: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☿☿☿☿: Aim high; start new projects. ☿☿☿☿☿: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	2	8						9
	3				6		2	7
			5	3		1		4
	1		4		7	2		
					3			
		7	2		1		9	
3		1			8	7		
5	7		6				4	
4					3	1	6	

Difficulty Level ★ 1/09 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

6	5	2	3	1	8	4	7	9
8	1	7	5	4	9	3	2	6
9	4	3	7	6	2	8	1	5
3	2	5	1	7	4	6	9	8
4	9	1	6	8	5	2	3	7
7	6	8	2	9	3	5	4	1
5	3	9	8	2	1	7	6	4
2	7	4	9	5	6	1	8	3
1	8	6	4	3	7	9	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/08

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HISTORY OF PRUSSIA

Solution: 11 letters

T	A	E	F	E	D	P	O	R	T	R	O	O	P	S
E	R	L	D	S	R	A	D	I	C	A	L	A	N	E
U	M	E	L	E	C	T	O	R	E	G	I	M	E	G
T	Y	D	W	I	L	F	L	A	N	K	E	V	N	A
O	C	O	L	H	A	F	A	E	N	K	A	O	E	E
N	P	K	S	C	R	N	R	R	I	N	I	A	R	L
I	O	C	E	R	A	C	N	K	E	X	T	E	I	D
C	M	I	A	D	T	G	E	A	M	P	I	Y	D	
K	E	R	R	N	R	D	V	R	O	M	Z	P	V	I
N	R	E	T	O	O	I	G	D	E	N	R	R	E	M
I	E	D	S	M	L	I	U	G	A	E	I	E	N	Y
G	L	E	I	A	M	S	A	D	G	O	R	A	G	H
H	I	R	N	M	N	G	N	I	L	U	R	C	E	C
T	A	F	I	T	A	E	R	G	E	H	T	H	E	U
S	T	I	M	E	A	E	S	C	I	T	L	A	B	D

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Angle, Appearance, Beach, Beetle, Birds, Brilliant, Bubbles, Butterfly, Cellophane, Chameleon, Clouds, Colors, Diamond, Disco Ball, Fish, Glare, Glitter, Glow, Gold, Kaleidoscope, Light, Minerals, Nacre, Nail Polish, Ocean, Oil, Paint, Pastel, Peacock, Pearl, Pools, Prismatic, Puddle, Shimmer, Shine, Sky, Sparkle, Stars, Table, Whimsical  
Last Friday's Answer: Skewered  
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

# Doncic scores 34 points in triple-double, Mavs beat Pelicans



**DALLAS (AP)**—Luka Doncic had 34 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his ninth triple-double of the season, Christian Wood added 28 points and the Dallas Mavericks outlasted the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans 127-117 on Saturday night.

Dallas raced to a 34-15 lead after one quarter. Wood took charge early, scoring nine of the Mavericks' first 13 points. Doncic started slowly, then had his team's final 11 points to finish the period with 14 points.

Doncic didn't pretend that he wasn't aware of his triple double. "I mean, they are right there on the board, so I am very aware," he said.

The Pelicans — who have lost four of five — missed all nine 3-point attempts in the first quarter, when New Orleans made just 6 of 26 field goal attempts.

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 18 points for Dallas, Jaden Hardy had 15 and Spencer Dinwiddie 12. The Mavericks have won eight of nine games.

The 20-year-old Hardy has had two of his three 15-point games this season in the last two games. He has averaged better than 28 points in the G League.

Hardy matched his career high with 15 points on 7-for-9 shooting. Hardy has scored 15 points in consecutive games, shooting 70.6% from the field.

"He's improved in every area," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "He's worked extremely hard. He's learn-



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic reacts after being called for a technical foul during the first half against the New Orleans Pelicans in an NBA basketball game on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, in Dallas.

ing what it means to be a pro. You can see the product on the floor in the sense that he's not scared. He's a young man surrounded by a megastar, and he feels like he fits right in. That's kind of cool."

Said Hardy: "That's just me staying true to my work and hours I put in the gym, and sticking to it. Doing the same thing I do in my workouts. Not being scared of anybody, just hoopin'. I've been doing this my whole life."

New Orleans played without its three leading scorers — Zion Williamson, Brandon Ingram and CJ McCollum.

Jonas Valanciunas had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans. Naji Marshall scored 24 points and Herbert Jones had 16. Valanciunas was questionable to start the

game because of a sprained

## Celtics 121, Spurs 116

In San Antonio, Jayson Ta-

tum scored 34 points, hitting the tiebreaking jumper with 33 seconds left, and NBA-leading Boston beat San An-

tonio for its sixth victory in eight games.

Jaylen Brown added 29 points for Boston, and Malcolm Brogdon had 23. The Celtics improved to 28-12.

Josh Richardson, Zach Collins and Tre Jones each had 18 points for San Antonio.

## Magic 115, Warriors 101

In San Francisco, Paolo Banchero scored 25 points, Franz Wagner added 24 points and Orlando sent Golden State to its second straight home loss, winning on the Warriors' home floor for the first time in more than 10 years.

Anthony Lamb scored a career-high 26 points off the bench for Golden State, 14 of those in the opening quarter with four 3s.

The Warriors welcomed back reinforcements in All-Star Andrew Wiggins and veteran Andre Iguodala mak-

ing his long-awaited season debut but Klay Thompson was a late scratch with soreness in his surgically repaired left knee. Stephen Curry missed his 11th straight game with a partially dislocated left shoulder.

## Bulls 126, Jazz 118

In Chicago, Zach LaVine made three consecutive 3-pointers during a key fourth-quarter stretch and scored 36 points, DeMar DeRozan had 35 and Chicago beat Utah.

After hitting 11 3s and scoring 41 points Friday night in a victory in Philadelphia, LaVine converted the three straights 3 to push the Bulls' lead to eight. DeRozan passed Pau Gasol and Bob Pettit for 40th place on the NBA's career scoring list.

Former Bulls player Lauri Markkanen led Utah with 28 points.

## James, Durant lead early in NBA All-Star starter voting

**NEW YORK (AP)**—LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and Kevin Durant of the Brooklyn Nets might be headed toward yet another NBA All-Star Game rematch.

James is the overall leader so far in All-Star balloting, and Durant leads all Eastern Conference players in early voting returns — putting them on track to be All-Star captains for the third consecutive year.

James had 3,168,694 votes entering Thursday, topping the list of Western Conference frontcourt players. Den-

ver's Nikola Jokic is second (2,237,768) and the Lakers' Anthony Davis is third (2,063,325).

Durant leads Eastern Conference frontcourt players with 3,118,545 votes. That's just ahead of Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo (2,998,327) and Philadelphia's Joel Embiid (2,226,712).

Golden State's Stephen Curry leads all guards in the balloting with 2,715,520 votes. Dallas' Luka Doncic has the No. 2 spot among West guards with 2,388,502 votes.

Among East guards, Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving leads with 2,071,715 votes, and Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell is second with 1,637,374.

The top three frontcourt players and top two guards in each conference will be chosen as starters, with the leading overall vote-getters from each conference serving as captains and choosing their teams.

Fan voting counts for 50% of the starters balloting, a media ballot counts for 25% and the ballots turned in by NBA players count for the

other 25%.

James has been a captain in all five previous uses of that process, going 5-0 in All-Star Games. His team beat a Durant-picked team in 2020 and 2021, beat teams picked by Antetokounmpo in 2018 and 2019, and beat a team picked by Curry in 2017.

Voting continues through Jan. 21. The captains and the starters will be announced Jan. 26. Reserves — chosen by NBA coaches — will be revealed Feb. 2, and the game is Feb. 19 in Salt Lake City.



## LOS ANGELES

**(AP)**—The Los Angeles Dodgers are cutting ties with pitcher Trevor Bauer, whose unprecedented 324-game suspension over sexual misconduct allegations was reduced two weeks ago, allowing him to resume his career with the start of the new season.

A person familiar with the situation said Friday the 31-year-old right-hander was designated for assignment, which means the Dodgers have seven days to pull off an unlikely trade or just release him. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the roster move.

If the 2020 NL Cy Young Award winner is released, Los Angeles would remain responsible for the more than \$22.5 million remaining on Bauer's contract.

"After careful consideration, we have decided that he will no longer be a part of our organization," the Dodg-

## Dodgers cut pitcher Trevor Bauer after suspension reduced

ers said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Bauer said in a statement, "Following two weeks of conversations around my return to the organization, I sat down with Dodgers leadership in Arizona yesterday who told me that they wanted me to return and pitch for the team this year.

"While I am disappointed by the organization's decision today, I appreciate the wealth of support I've received from the Dodgers clubhouse. I wish the players all the best and look forward to competing elsewhere."

The Dodgers had until Friday to restore Bauer to the roster under baseball's rules and they didn't announce their decision until late afternoon. The team has rarely commented on the divisive case since Bauer was put on paid administrative leave in July 2021.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred suspended Bauer for 324 games for violating the league's domestic violence

and sexual assault policy after a San Diego woman said he beat and sexually abused her in 2021. Bauer has maintained he did nothing wrong, saying that everything that happened between him and the woman was consensual.

Bauer was never charged with a crime.

The players' association filed a grievance on Bauer's behalf, and a three-person panel headed by independent arbitrator Martin Scheinman started hearing the case last May.

In a ruling on Dec. 22, Scheinman upheld a 194-game suspension rather than Manfred's intended 324-game penalty and reinstated Bauer immediately. Scheinman affirmed that Bauer violated MLB's policy and docked his pay for the first 50 games of 2023, covering part of the period the pitcher was on paid leave in 2021 and '22.

"The Dodgers organization believes that allegations of sexual assault or domestic violence should be thoroughly

investigated, with due process given to the accused," the team's statement said.

The team said it fully cooperated with MLB's investigation and strictly followed the rules under the league's domestic violence and sexual assault policy.

"Two extensive reviews of all the available evidence in this case — one by Commissioner Manfred and another by a neutral arbitrator — concluded that Mr. Bauer's actions warranted the longest ever active player suspension in our sport for violations of this policy," the Dodgers said.

Bauer joined his hometown Dodgers before the 2021 season on a \$102 million, three-year contract. He had a record of 8-5 and a 2.59 ERA in 17 games before being placed on leave.

In the likelihood Bauer is released, the MLB players' association could challenge his release as not complying with the Uniform Player's Contract.

The contract allows the team to terminate if the player shall "fail, refuse or neglect to conform his personal conduct to the standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship or to keep himself in first-class physical condition or to obey the club's training rules" or "fail, in the opinion of the club's management, to exhibit sufficient skill or competitive ability to qualify or continue as a member of the club's team."

In February 2022, Los Angeles prosecutors decided not to charge Bauer for allegedly beating and sexually abusing the San Diego woman because they said they were unable to prove her accusations beyond a reasonable doubt.

The woman, who was 27 at the time, said Bauer choked her into unconsciousness, punched her repeatedly and sexually assaulted her during two sexual encounters.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they have been vic-

tims of sexual assault.

Bauer said in a video posted on YouTube after the prosecutor's decision that he and the woman engaged in rough sex at her suggestion and followed guidelines they agreed to in advance. Each encounter ended with her spending the night at his Pasadena home, he said.

"The disturbing acts and conduct that she described simply did not occur," he said at the time.

The woman had sought a restraining order, but a judge denied it. The judge found that Bauer honored the woman's boundaries when the woman set them, and could not have known about those he violated because she didn't express them clearly.

Bauer will lose about \$37.6 million in salary for the final 144 games of last season and for the first 50 games of this season, through May 23.

If Bauer is released, another team could sign him for the major league minimum of \$720,000, with the Dodgers responsible for the remainder of the \$22,537,635 he is owed.

# Mahomes sets record, Chiefs beat Raiders for AFC's top seed



**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs don't believe in simply wrapping up the AFC's top seed. They want to have fun doing it.

Late in the first half Saturday against the Las Vegas Raiders, the Chiefs huddled and spun in a circle, broke out into the shotgun with running back Jerick McKinnon taking a direct snap. He faked a handoff to Kadarius Toney and pitched to quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who then threw to Toney for a 9-yard touchdown.

But, it didn't count. A holding penalty brought back the play. The Chiefs then scored anyway to take full control of what became a 31-13 victory.

The play is called the Snow Globe or Arctic Circle, depending on who is asked. But, even if it didn't count, it underscored the Chiefs' creativity and willingness to have fun, even while playing for playoff positioning and a week off.

"We talked about it on the side, 'Let's see if we can get some confusion going and throw something back,'" Mahomes said. "It worked. We just had the holding penalty. We got some good things going for the playoffs, and whatever we run has to work."

That, Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, was the bottom line.

"You do (want to make it fun), but you want to score, too," Reid said. "It's not fun when you're not doing that."

Almost lost was the NFL record for total yards in a season

that Mahomes set. He passed for 202 yards and rushed for 29 against the Raiders, giving him 5,608 total yards this season. That surpassed the record of 5,562 yards set by Drew Brees in 2011 with the New Orleans Saints.

"Pat was on fire," Reid said. "He's throwing these (statistics) out there like they're nothing."

More than setting the mark, Mahomes helped ensure the top seed for the Chiefs (14-3) and a bye in the first round of the playoffs, which begin next weekend. Kansas City, however, is not assured of home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

Because Monday night's Buffalo-Cincinnati game was canceled, the Chiefs could wind up playing the Bills or Bengals in the AFC championship on a neutral field. The Buffalo-Cincinnati game initially was postponed after Bills safety Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest. Hamlin remains in critical condition, but is improving.

This was the first NFL game played since Hamlin was hospitalized. Both teams wore black shirts in warmups that read "LOVE FOR DAMAR" with his No. 3 in the middle. Mahomes also wore a hoodie that had a drawing of the player with "HAMLIN STRONG" below it.

Instead of a moment of silence before the game, the Allegiant Stadium public-address announcer asked fans to cheer on Hamlin's recovery.

"It was definitely weird,"



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes runs with the ball against the Las Vegas Raiders during the first half of an NFL football game Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Mahomes said of returning to the field. "It's a game that you love, you play your entire life. It's brought so many great things to you. But, obviously, with the situation that happened Monday night with Damar, you still have that in the back of your mind. You want to be there for him, and there is so much stuff bigger than football."

The Chiefs matched their franchise record for regular-season victories, set in 2020, and they set a team mark with their 17th consecutive game of at least 300 yards of offense.

The Raiders (6-11) ended their first season under coach Josh McDaniels with three consecutive losses and four defeats in five games. They

made the playoffs a year ago, but now face serious questions at quarterback, offensive line and throughout the defense.

Jarrett Stidham started his second game in a row in place of the sidelined Derek Carr, and this performance didn't go nearly as well as the first one. Stidham completed 22 of 36 passes for 219 yards with a touchdown and interception. He was sacked six times.

A week ago, he threw for 365 yards and three touchdowns in a 37-34 overtime loss to the San Francisco 49ers.

Stidham said he hasn't thought much about trying to retain the starting job next season with the Raiders.

"Do I feel like I'm that caliber player in this league?" he

## Jags return fumble for TD, beat Titans for AFC South title

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** (AP)—With a scoop and score that will go down in franchise lore, Josh Allen may have put an end to the chaos and disappointment that has defined the Jacksonville Jaguars for the better part of the past decade.

Allen's 37-yard fumble return with 2:51 remaining helped the Jaguars beat rival Tennessee 20-16 on Saturday night and secure their first AFC South championship since 2017.

"I'm speechless," Jaguars owner Shad Khan said before crediting coach Doug Pederson, general manager Trent Baalke and players. "I've always had confidence that we would be getting to where we needed to go."

Khan easily could have singled out Allen and safety Rayshawn Jenkins, who forced Josh Dobbs' fumble. Allen picked up the loose ball on a perfect bounce and ran, untouched, the other way for a lead that held up.

Dobbs fumbled again on the ensuing possession, and the Jaguars (9-8) started to

celebrate their most significant regular-season victory in history.

"This was one of those games where our defense had to win it for us," Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence said. "Us guys on offense, we're a little frustrated because we left a lot out there. But in these games, just win. Our defense picked us up today. They played great."

Jacksonville earned the No. 4 seed in the conference playoffs and will host either the Los Angeles Chargers or Baltimore in the wild-card round next weekend.

It's the 18th time in the last 20 seasons that at least one NFL team won its division after finishing last or tied for last the previous year.

Jacksonville closed the regular season with its fifth consecutive victory and became the fifth team in NFL history to make the playoffs with a five-game losing streak and a five-game winning streak in the same season.

"We just kept believing," Lawrence said. "Nobody ever

lost faith. Everybody believed in one another. We never started pointing the finger. We lost five games straight and we just got tighter."

Tennessee (7-10) lost its final seven games, a skid that had just about everyone writing them off before Saturday's finale.

"Nobody wants to finish how we did," Titans running back Derrick Henry said. "That's never the plan, never the goal. Like I said, stuff happens, adversity happens."

"We wanted to win the division and have a great record, yeah, but it didn't happen this year. All you can do is go back to work and be thankful for the journey and everybody in their efforts and look forward."

The Titans rested several starters last week and essentially created a 10-day break to get healthy. They returned to their bruising brand of football and looked like they would pull an improbable turnaround — until Dobbs' turnover changed the game.

"We just got on a (crappy) streak and couldn't get off

it," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. "Couldn't make the plays when we needed to. We couldn't be consistent enough when we needed to and it showed up again."

The Jaguars were 6 1/2-point favorites, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, and a near-sellout crowd was on hand to witness what many thought would be more of a coronation than a scratch-and-claw nail-biter.

The Titans didn't do anything spectacular. With quarterback Ryan Tannehill (ankle) out for the season, they leaned on Dobbs — an aerospace engineer who has bounced around the league — to be smart with the ball and Henry to grind out tough yards. And they relied on a defense that's been stout against the run all year.

It worked for 57 minutes — and then it unraveled.

Henry finished with 109 yards on 30 carries. Dobbs completed 20 of 29 passes for 179 yards, with a touchdown, an interception and the fumble.

## Hamlin, still critical, continues recovery, and tweets thanks

**ORCHARD PARK, N.Y.** (AP)—Doctors described Damar Hamlin's neurological function as "excellent" Saturday, as the Buffalo Bills safety continued making progress in his recovery after having to be resuscitated on the field in a game at Cincinnati on Monday.

In providing their daily update on Hamlin, the Bills said the player continues to breathe on his own but remains in critical condition at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. Hamlin took a major step forward in his recovery on Friday when he was taken off a ventilator and showed an ability to speak.

There was a tweet on the 24-year-old's verified Twitter account Saturday evening saying that any love put into the world comes back three times as much and thanking all who have "reached out and prayed." It also said that the response to his injury will make Hamlin stronger. The tweet was followed by a heart-shaped emoji and "3."

The tweet read: "Putting love into the world comes back 3xs as much... thankful for everyone who has reached out and prayed. This will make me stronger on the road to recovery, keep praying for me!"

The NFL also will show support for Hamlin during all Week 18 games, which start Saturday afternoon, including a pregame moment of support, painting Hamlin's No. 3 on the 30-yard line and pregame shirts with "Love for Damar 3." The Bills will also wear "3" jersey patches.

A couple hours after the

said. "Absolutely. I just tried to be ready for my opportunity these last two weeks and try to take full advantage of it."

Raiders running back Josh Jacobs, who was dealing with hip and oblique injuries as well as a reported family emergency, was a game-day decision but played. He rushed for 45 yards and could possibly win the NFL rushing title with 1,653 yards.

But Jacobs fell short of the franchise rushing record of 1,759 yards set by Marcus Allen in 1985. This was potentially Jacobs' final game as a member of the Raiders because his fifth-year option was not picked up. His performance this season has given Las Vegas officials plenty to consider.

first, there was another tweet that said, "The love is felt, & extremely real. No matter race or religion everybody coming together in prayer!"

The NFL also will show support for Hamlin during all Week 18 games, which start Saturday afternoon, including a pregame moment of support, painting Hamlin's No. 3 on the 30-yard line and pregame shirts with "Love for Damar 3." The Bills will also wear "3" jersey patches.

Hamlin also made a brief live videoconference appearance Friday for his teammates, making several hand signs and saying, "Love you boys."

Hamlin went into cardiac arrest and his heart stopped on Monday night after making what appeared to be a routine tackle in the first quarter against the Bengals. The game was initially suspended before officially being canceled later in the week.

The Bills are planning to pay tribute to Hamlin and the first-responders and medical staff who treated the player when they close the season Sunday by hosting the New England Patriots.

On Saturday, the Steelers paid tribute to Hamlin, who is from the Pittsburgh area, by delivering toys, books and teaching supplies to Kelly & Nina's Daycare, where the player hosts an annual toy drive. Fans, players and team owners have also made donations to Hamlin's Chasing M's Foundation, which has raised just more than \$8.2 million by Saturday afternoon.

# Latte Built Run Challenge produces two 365-day streak runners

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

New year's resolutions come and go—sometimes you stick with it but more often than not, you fail as swiftly as you began.

However, with discipline and commitment, you are able to achieve almost anything and that's what Ali Nelson and Frank Nawaz did on Jan. 1, 2022 when they took on Latte Built Gym's 31-day Run Challenge, which ultimately propelled them to complete a one-year running streak.

Along with Nelson and Nawaz joining the growing numbers of streak runners in the CNMI after accomplishing running at least a mile a day last Jan. 1, 2023, Nelson is also the first recorded woman in the CNMI to complete the one-year running streak.

Nelson, a 42-year-old civil division chief of the Office of the Attorney General, said she was convinced by her friend, Kerri Bauer, to join her in the challenge and even after the month-long challenge, she decided to just keep running.

As to being the first woman in the CNMI to complete the one-year streak, Nelson said she had no idea that she would be the first. "I'm so surprised. There are so many women here (and so many women runners!) that have been such an inspiration for me."

Nelson said that she would like to continue her streak, but that she is just taking it one day at a time. "I think the next goal for streaks is generally 1,000 days, but it's a



Nawaz

little overwhelming to think about committing to that. I'm just taking it a day at a time, but don't know what it would take to make me quit."

The Run Saipan member, who joined in 2021, said for those who are hesitant to take on the challenge or even just start running and being physically active that "You don't have to decide to run for a whole year, you just have to make the choice to get started and then keep going. You don't have to run fast or even think of yourself as a runner. And you don't have to do it alone. There's a whole community of runners here (through Run Saipan and otherwise) that's

so inclusive and supportive."

She then thanked her husband "for not questioning this goal that's felt so silly at times. And [Dr.] Lily Muldoon (one of the fastest runners I know) for matching my pace on runs and for pushing me up hills and onto teams and into (finally) starting to think of myself as a runner."

As for Nawaz, a 31-year-old second grade teacher at Garapan Elementary School, he said his best friend Angel San Nicolas challenged him to complete the running streak.

Nawaz usually runs a mile or more and plans to extend his streak heading into the



Nelson

new year. "Right now I'm still continuing the streak, but haven't given it much thought to how long I'll go."

"I'd like to thank Angel for challenging and supporting me. My girlfriend Janey for helping me stay on it," said Nawaz.

For those who want to take on the challenge, Nawaz said "It seems difficult, but once you make it a part of your daily routine, it will be so easy. Having a great support system and discipline goes a long way. Alhamdulillah!"

Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Run Saipan president, said about the Latte Built Challenge, "I love what Derek [Cutting's] doing for the beginning of the year challenge. He has one for each type of health and wellness activity each

person can do. He brought me on board for cardio. It's the second year in a row he's doing this with every person who completes it to get a month free membership."

"For my side, it's either 7,000 steps a day or a mile of running per day and it has to be done consecutive days and I love it because unlike the traditional weight loss/transformation challenge, everyone can be rewarded for their hard work. It's very unique. Last year we had 20 or more attempts. This year, we are close to 50."

"The beautiful thing about last year's challenge was we had two products who came out of it who were Ali Nelson and Frank Nawaz who took it to the next level and completed their 365 challenge... It's going to be crazy to see who out of this year's batch will go all the way for 365," said Dela Cruz.

## MANUEL

From Page 36

32 kg, while she lifted 30 kg, 35 kg, and 40 kg for the clean and jerk.

For Cheyanne's 71-kg weight class, she lifted a total of 141 kg. Her successful snatch lifts were 55 kg and 64 kg, while she failed a 69-kg attempt. Her clean and jerk successful attempts were 70 kg and 77 kg, while she failed a 82-kg lift.

Meanwhile, Kiien joined the 96-kg weight class and totaled 125 kg after completing all six lift attempts. For his snatch, he recorded 45 kg, 50 kg, and 55 kg, while his clean and jerk attempts were 65 kg, 77 kg, and 70 kg.

For the women's 87-kg weight class, Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 gold medalist Antonette Labausa was the lone competitor and successfully completed all six of her lifts for a total of 173 kg. Her snatch lifts were 68

kg, 71 kg, and 74 kg, while her clean and jerk lifts were 88 kg, 92 kg, and 99 kg.

The women's 59-kg had Devine Pua and Kaya Rasa, with both lifting a total of 93 kg. Pua's snatch lifts were 35 kg, 38 kg, and 42 kg, while her clean and jerk lifts were 45 kg and 51 kg. She failed to pull 56 kg.

Rasa's completed lifts for the snatch were 35 kg and 38 kg, while her clean and jerk lifts were 45 kg, 50 kg, and 55 kg.

Anniegail, who has been weightlifting for a year, said after the competition, "it could've been better. I didn't like that I missed both of my last lifts in the snatch and clean and jerk, but I'll come back better hopefully. Nothing to be proud of, just living up to expectations."

Cheyenne, who was part of the CNMI National Weightlifting Team during the Mini Games, said "I wasn't really happy with my performance, but we have another competition

in February and hopefully by then we can up our numbers. There was a bit of a mix up but I'm just looking forward to the next one. But all in all, I'm really thankful for my coach and teammates. It's been a fun experience."

They have made weightlifting their family's sport of choice, as Cheyanne said she joined weightlifting first, then told her sister to join. Her brother wanted to join them shortly after that.

Kiien, who just started two months ago, was already pulling his personal bests—with both lifts his best so far. In this competition, he completed all lifts, and said that he felt good that he made no mistakes.

A total of 10 male and 10 female joined in either the youth, junior, and senior divisions of the snatch and clean and jerk lifts. This competition is one of several qualifying events for selection of the 2023 CNMI Weightlifting National Team.

CNMI Weightlifting Federation president John Davis said after, "The main purpose of doing this today was to get people to qualify for the Micronesia Games and the Pacific Games this year. We had a good turnout, the biggest turnout we've ever had—not in numbers, but in the quality of lifters... It's a good turnout for athletes and spectators."

To be considered for the national weightlifting team

for the Micronesia Games or the Pacific Games, each athlete would have to compete in two qualifying events.

While this is considered one qualifier event, there were no medals or awards for the top in their weight class. The other qualifying event that athletes are able to join is the Guam weightlifting competition this February and/or the next weightlifting competition

in the CNMI in March.

"This was not a full-blown event. The next one in March, we should have everything in place that is not here and we're going to have all the bells and whistles just like we did at the [2022 Pacific Mini Games, so that our athletes can get the full experience before they show up at one of the [2023] Games and don't know what they're doing," said Davis.

Locally, Tsunami Saipan is planning to have monthly unofficial swim meets to help the younger swimmers become better in the sport.

"As children level up, their swimming practice will gradually become harder. It's going to be more painful than fun. However, when they overcome it and move on to the next stage, the children grow up. Their faces will change noticeably. And the teammates who overcame the hard practice together will be a lifetime treasure. I am happiest as a coach to be able to be there for the children."

Kimura also said Tsunami Saipan would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the following: the Tan family (Jerry, Lydia, and Tania), the Northern Mariana Island Swimming Federation (president Colin Thompson, vice president John Hirsh, and coaches Richard Sikkell and Valrich Welch), Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Tsunami Saipan parents, especially Beth Nunez, and last but not the least his wife Yuko and their two sons—Shin and Kensuke, both former CNMI national swimmers.

## JIN

From Page 36

the one-off event. Palacios and Apatang's also extended their gratitude to the sponsors of the AD2023 Inauguration Golf Tournament.

The expansive list of sponsors include 360 Restaurant, A&P LLC, AK Toyota, All Star Sporting Goods, Bank of Guam, Bovers Trading/Ginen Saipan, Bridge Capital, Calvo's Enterprise, Calvo's Insurance, Chong's Corp., Coral Ocean Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort, D&W Saipan, Dial Rent to

Own, Docomo Pacific, E-Land Group, First Hawaiian Bank, Godfather's Restaurant and Bar, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Herman's Bakery, Hong Ye, Love Saipan, IP&E, IT&E, J&G Enterprises, J.E.T. Holdings, JC Café Restaurant & Karaoke Lounge Tinian, Jeju Air, G Sablan Ice & Water, Joeten Enterprises, Joeten Motors, K.L. Carr, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Carrier (Advanced Carrier Inc), Marianas Coffee, Marianas Southern Airlines, Marianas Variety, MarPac, McDonald

Guam & Saipan, Megabyte, Micronesia Air Cargo/Skydive, MLJ Development and Investment Corp., Pacific Rim/Paradiso Hotel, Pacific Trading Co., Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Plumeria Steak House, Power 99, RPCF, Safety First, Saipan Apparel, Saipan Select, Saipan Shipping, Saipan World Resort, Star Jewelry, Staywell, Tan Holding Corp., Tan Siu Lin Foundation, The Athlete's Foot, Top Shelf Golf, Top Shelf Wine and Spirit, Traders Insurance Co., Triple J Group Companies, Triple J Motors, TWay, and Westco.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 36

"Tsunami top swimmers showed high performance in the two big competitions—the FINA World Championships in Budapest and Melbourne—where we marked 11 NMI records and Isaiah Aleksenko got 682 FINA points which is the highest points for an NMI swimmer ever."

In a way though, he gets as much satisfaction in his swimmers breaking records with how the rest of Tsunami Saipan and its 67 members have progressed last year.

"Our advanced junior class—named the Ikusei Class—has a lot of young swimmers, aged around 7-11. Some of them are ready to go on off-island meets because they almost reached BB time (U.S. motivational time). I'm so glad for their big improvement this year. We believe the most important matter for NMI swimming is not only about top swimmer's performance but also raising the next generations."

Kimura said the next challenge for local swimmers now is to continue to devel-

op despite Saipan having no competition pool since the Marpi pool closed several years ago.

"Currently, we don't have any competition pool. It means we can't hold a swim meet that is the most necessary for young swimmers to keep/raise their motivation for swimming. It's so hard for a competitive swim club. But we can't change this situation. So, we have to try raising up the next generations with the current circumstance. This is such a big challenge for Tsunami Saipan."

For 2023, Kimura said Tsunami Saipan swimmers are setting their sights on representing the CNMI again in the Micronesia Games in the Marshall Islands, the Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands, and the FINA World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan.

He's also trying to arrange Tsunami Saipan swimmers to take part in swim camps and meets in Taiwan and Japan, respectively, after forming good relationships with fellow coaches from the two countries during the FINA World Championships in Melbourne last month.



**Doncic scores 34 points in triple-double, Mavs beat Pelicans**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Latte Built Run Challenge produces two 365-day streak runners**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Jin tops AD2023 Inauguration Golf tourney

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Golf instructor Feng Chun Jin showed his students how it's done by winning the AD2023 Inauguration Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 31-year-old from China fired a net score of 68.40 in the double peoria tournament to beat runner-up Sunho Kang, who wound up with a 69.40.

Rounding out the Top 3 was Ming Zhe Li with his 70.20, while the rest of the Top 10 with prize money

were Amier Younis (70.60), Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho (70.80), Zhi Min Jin (71.00), Tony Benavente (71.00), Cameron Nicholas (71.00), Joseph Camacho (71.20), and Frank Sablan (71.20). Ties were decided by scorecard tiebreak.

Jin said he didn't even think about winning the tournament much less the \$1,000 first place purse because it's a double peoria format.

"Not really...as the greens were just a little but slow. It was also so windy so playing was a bit hard."

Asked what was his best

hole in the tourney, Jin immediately said it was hole No. 11.

"I hit a shot and it was straight but just came up short [for an ace] and wound up with a birdie putt."

Kang, Li, Younis, "Kamikaze" Camacho took home \$800, \$600, \$400, \$200, respectively, for placing in the Top 5, while sixth to 10th received \$100 each.

In the closest to the pin competition, Flor Jones won in hole No. 4, Roland Merar in hole No. 6, Sylvester Javier in hole No. 11, and Manny Managarero was without

peer in hole No. 15.

Jones, Merar, and Javier pocketed \$100 each for their troubles, while Managarero matched Jin's \$1,000 winnings in just one lucky shot.

The AD2023 Inauguration Golf Tournament was held to help defray the cost of governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang's inauguration today.

Both incoming top officials graced the tournament and congratulated the winners as well as thanked everyone who participated in

See JIN on Page 35



MARK RABAGO

Feng Chun Jin, AD2023 Inauguration Golf Tournament winner, is flanked by governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios, right, and lieutenant governor-elect David M. Apatang's during the awards ceremony Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

# Manuel siblings top weight classes



LEIGH GASES

Kien Manuel lifted a total of 125 kg in the 96-kg weight class of the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES

Cheyanne Manuel lifted a total of 141 kg in her 71-kg division in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LEIGH GASES

Anniegail Manuel topped her 64-kg division with a total weight lifted of 141 kg in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Weights flew as 20 athletes took the spotlight Saturday morning to compete in the Northern Marianas Cup Weightlifting Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, with siblings Anniegail, Cheyanne, and Kien Manuel topping their respective weight classes.



Cheyanne, a 21-year-old, is the eldest, and was the lone competitor of the 71-kg weight class; while Anniegail just turned 18 and topped the 64-kg class; and their brother

Kien, is 12 and was the lone competitor of the 96-kg weight class.

In Anniegail's 64-kg weight class, it was a battle between her and Katie Camacho. Manuel topped it with a 141-kg total weight lifted, while Camacho lifted a total of 72 kg.

For the snatch lift, Anniegail's successful attempts were 55 kg and 64 kg. She failed the third attempt of 65 kg. In the clean and jerk lift, she successfully lifted 75 and 80 kg, while she tried to go for 85 kg but didn't complete it.

Camacho's numbers for the snatch were 25 kg, 28 kg, and

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## Tsunami Saipan proud of top, up-and-coming swimmers

By MARK RABAGO  
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Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center had a lot of success with a number of their members representing the CNMI in off-island competitions last year.

However, head coach Hiroyuki Kimura isn't only proud of how their top swimmers performed in international meets, but also how their younger swimmers have developed in 2022.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center members pose for a group photo after a recent practice.